

# Class of 1979 Newsletter

*Voted Class-of-the-Year eight times: 1997, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, and 2017. No other Dartmouth class has had as many wins.  
Our Class of 1979 is unreservedly Dartmouth's Best Class*

## September 2022

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# DARTMOUTH

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# Here We Go (Again)

## A Letter from your Class President

by Adam Samuel '79

It's been a year since I last wrote to you, and a lot has happened. It seems like we now have a chance to view our situation newly and rise above what are some of the most challenging times in our lives and for the world.

Our classmates - I mean you - are contributing to families, with communities and in the world. We got to see and hear from a number of '79s this past year - diplomats, journalists, artists, philanthropists and more - in activities that were offered online. Many of us got to see each other in person, at events in celebration - and in mourning. Most of us are eligible for Medicare, how did that happen?!

You'll find a summary of what we accomplished on your behalf over the past year in this newsletter. We've also laid out our goals for the year ahead. We hope you'll find a way - or many ways - to participate with us. Please let members of our executive committee or I know if you have suggestions for activities you'd like to see us offer.

Have a great fall! Thanks for all you provide...

Safe at last in the wide wide world,  
Adam

Please let us know if you have interest in being a mentor here:  
<https://forms.gle/qZWVHox5asap5I?77> 📧

# '79's are DCF Winners Again!!!

by Ellen Oppenheim '79 & Michio Soga '79

YOU helped us reach our DCF goal for 2022— THANK YOU!

the Bonfire Challenge, which coincides with Homecoming. You'll be hearing more about that soon.

We want to thank a tireless team of class agents, with special thanks to our Participation Chairs Andy Heller and David Wolf. Gratitude also goes to our predecessors in the Head Agent role, who helped get us over the finish line: Bill Mitchell, Laurie Deacon, and Peggy Tanner. Every agent did their job and we offer special thanks to each and every one of you— you rock!



Here are our winning DCF stats:

Goal: \$750,000 - Actual: \$849,125

Goal: 550 donors - Actual: 560 donors \*

\* The most donors of any non-reunion class and winner of the Rasenberger Award again!!

Overall, Dartmouth alumni and parents delivered \$43.9M in financial aid for today's student body, surpassing the goal by \$1.4M.

We also won The June Challenge with the greatest number of donors for a non-reunion class, and had the highest donor retention rate (95%). The point is you all are awesome classmates, and we are so lucky to have your support. Looking forward to 2022/23, we want you to know about

We promise we won't bother you for a couple of months yet, but we are always hoping to save our team the last-minute effort of collecting gifts in late June. That said, we are launching a raffle as an incentive for all classmates who make their donations as "sustaining gifts." This means you tell us when you want to be charged on your credit card, and we will process it for you. It can be monthly,

quarterly, annually—whatever you prefer. But if your gift to DCF is automated, then we are all winners— you don't have to field our calls, and we can check you off our list.

Contact us at [michiosoga@yahoo.com](mailto:michiosoga@yahoo.com) or [Ellen.opp@gmail.com](mailto:Ellen.opp@gmail.com) to make the arrangements to become a sustaining giver. You could be the winner of a cool new Dartmouth tote bag! Best regards and sincere thanks,  
Ellen & Mich, Class of 1979 Head Agents

Your DCF gift is welcome any time—click [here](#) to make your gift online today. 📧

# Class of 1979 Summary of FY21-22 Accomplishments:

by Adam Samuels '79

**We** participated as a group over 790 times in over 25 events: at in-person & virtual mini-reunions; in ZOOM conversations with classmates at "Sitting on the '79 Fence" events; online and in person with events hosted by the Committee on Race;

**P**at Pannell, in her new role as outreach and engagement leader, re-connected us with over 10 of the approximately 80 classmates who had previously been out of touch with the class;

**B**ill Mitchell, our webmeister/digital content manager, made enhancements to the Class YouTube channel, where 12 recordings of activities have been viewed by nearly 1,000 of us;

**P**at and Bill Mitchell sponsored a virtual holiday dance party as well as the first two of (hopefully many) online LSA/FSP gatherings;

**N**early 100 of us joined our #dartmouth1979 group on Instagram;

**We** reported the deaths of six classmates - Hank Young, John Currier, Tim Craig, Bert Gates, Doug Canning and Karen Brownberger Gordon - and Ben Riley and Bill created enduring online obituaries for each in the In Memory section of our class website;

**421** of us paid annual dues to the class (thanks if you were one of them!);

**O**ur new stewards, Gail Frawley Granowitz and Margo Squire, sent 60 messages to classmates, family members and some of our former Deans;

**346** of us contributed financially to Dartmouth Partners for Community Service donating a total of \$20,000 in support of undergraduate mentoring programs, while expanding the number of classes who contribute to this effort (six classmates mentored undergraduate interns this year);

**T**wo additional classmates advised us that they were including Dartmouth in their will, for a total of 44 (4% so far);

**J**anie Simms Hamner kept us informed with six Dartmouth Alumni Magazine columns;

**M**ark Winkler produced six awesome newsletters;

**We** fielded one survey and analyzed responses from 77 classmates;

**O**ur DCF team, led by incoming co-chairs Ellen Oppenheim and Mich Soga, delivered outstanding fundraising performance, with 560 classmates (60% of us) contributing \$849,125 in support of students attending the College. We won the Rasenberger award for the 20th consecutive year and renewed all members of the Hal Ripley Society.



# Class of 1979 Goals for FY22-23:

by Adam Samuels '79

**A**t least 790 classmates (& others) participate in over 20 in-person and virtual events;

**We** re-connect with more classmates and found ways to include them in class events;

**H**undreds of us attend at least one all-class ZOOM event with themed breakout rooms, as well as online reunions for LSA/FSP attendees, team/club/fraternity/sorority, and more;

**A**t least 79 classmates attend Fall mini-reunion activities;

**A**t least 79 classmates join in Spring micro-reunions and other events;

**H**undreds of us attend or view recordings of four ZOOM Sitting on the '79 Fence events;

**O**ver 100 classmates attend ZOOM & in-person events hosted by the Committee on Race;

**A**t least 495 classmates support our activities through class dues;

**A**t least 79 classmates are registered as mentors to student interns;

**79%** of dues payers contribute to Dartmouth '79 Partners in Community Service (DPCS)

**A**t least seven additional classmates advise us that they have included Dartmouth in their wills or in their IRA/401k distribution plans;

**J**anie writes six Dartmouth Alumni Magazine columns;

**M**ark delivers five class newsletters;

**560** classmates contribute at least \$790,000 in support of students attending the College;

**We** endow funding for purchases of books/media in memory of every classmate;

**A**n update to our Class constitution is ratified;

**We** survey you twice, and make improvements based on what you told us about how we're addressing what's important to you;

**O**ur Instagram following expands to 150 as we engage more classmates;

**A**t least 5 more classmates begin volunteering with the Class in support of classmate outreach and hosting upcoming gatherings



# Upcoming 22/23 Events for your Class of 1979

- ✦ Sign up for Medicare before your 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday. <https://www.hhs.gov/answers/medicare-and-medicaid/index.html>
- ✦ Saturday, September 17 @ Noon: Dartmouth vs. Valparaiso Football Mini-Reunion Dartmouth Friends of Football/Sponsors Tent
- ✦ Friday, September 30 @ 6pm: Dartmouth vs. Penn Football Mini-Reunion Dartmouth Friends of Football/Sponsors Tent
- ✦ Saturday, October 8 @ 10:30am Dartmouth at Yale Mini-Reunion Details to follow
- ✦ Saturday, October 15 @ Noon Dartmouth vs. UNH Mini-Reunion Dartmouth Friends of Football/Sponsors Tent
- ✦ Friday, October 28, Evening Dartmouth Homecoming Parade, football weekend vs. Harvard
- ✦ Saturday, October 29, Homecoming Football game versus Harvard in Hanover
- ✦ Friday & Saturday, November 11-12 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend Celebrating Co-education at Dartmouth
- ✦ Monday, March 20, 2023 79<sup>th</sup> Day Mini- and Micro-Reunions Worldwide, Nationwide, and wherever you are with camera





## Class of 1979 Officers clockwise starting at High Noon

- Chip Debelius, Alumni Council Class Rep. • [cadebelius@gmail.com](mailto:cadebelius@gmail.com)
- Michio Soga, DCF Co-Head Class Agent • [michiosoga@yahoo.com](mailto:michiosoga@yahoo.com)
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- Maurice (Mo) Simmons, Mini-Reunions Co-Chair • [m.simmons5379@gmail.com](mailto:m.simmons5379@gmail.com)
- Jim Wasz, Vice-President & Class Pojects • [jwasz1979@gmail.com](mailto:jwasz1979@gmail.com)
- Mark Winkler, Newsletter Editor • [Mark.Winkler.79@gmail.com](mailto:Mark.Winkler.79@gmail.com)
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- Peggy Epstein Tanner, DCF Leadership Gifts • [pegstan5@gmail.com](mailto:pegstan5@gmail.com)
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- Tom Ewing, Treasurer • [thomas.c.ewing.d79@gmail.com](mailto:thomas.c.ewing.d79@gmail.com)
- Curtiss Rooks, Committee on Race Co-Liaison • [ctrooks79@gmail.com](mailto:ctrooks79@gmail.com)
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- Ben Riley, Class Historian • [briley@bztm.com](mailto:briley@bztm.com)
- Bill Mitchell, Digital Content Mer./Webmaster • [whmitchell79@gmail.com](mailto:whmitchell79@gmail.com)



# Events Beyond 22/23 for your Class of 1979

- ✦ June 19 -22, 2025 • Thurs. to Sun. Our only 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Don't miss it.
- ✦ June 8-12, 2029 • Friday to Tuesday. Our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, a once-in-a-lifetime, historic event!! Future members of the Class of 2029, born in 2007, who will graduate during our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion, are now about 15/16 years old and entering their sophomore(!) year in high school!! 
- ✦ June 12-15, 2034 • Monday to Thursday. Our 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion. In Hanover. Be there!
- ✦ September, 2054 • Monday to Thursday. Our 75<sup>th</sup> and Last Class of 1979 Reunion. Attendees will be 97 years old.
- ✦ Sunday, June 11, 2079. The next Dartmouth Class of '79 graduates. OMG!!! Class of 2029 celebrates their 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion.
- ✦ Friday, March 22, 2233. Birthday of the future Starfleet Captain **James T. Kirk** who will be born in Riverside, Iowa. Jim will be born two days late having been initially due on March 20<sup>th</sup>, the 79<sup>th</sup> day of that year. If not accepted by Starfleet Academy in 2250, Kirk's second choice is expected to be Dartmouth College with the Class of 2254. Their 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be in 2279.
- ✦ Monday, December 13, 2269. Dartmouth celebrates its 500<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary, its first half Millennium, which is about the very same year that Captain Kirk will learn about **Tribble Troubles**. 

# Fall 2022 D79 Mini-Reunions

by Maurice Simmons '79

Are you ready for some football? Participate™ with fellow members of the Class of 1979 at one of the upcoming football games as Coach Buddy Teevens '79 attempts to lead the Big Green to another Ivy Championship!



During our early season home games vs. \* **Valparaiso 9/17 1:30pm**, \* **Penn 9/30 7pm**, and \* **UNH 10/15 1:30pm** we will try out a new tailgate format. We will be partnering with the Recruiting Sponsors Program and Friends of Dartmouth Football for pre-game food and drinks. If you are not yet a member of either program, bring \$19.79 to the tent at the northwest side of the stadium. There you can join the programs and be welcomed for food and beverage. The Class will match your gift, up to \$19.79, split between the programs. At halftime, you can visit the Class tailgate in the traditional spot by Sphinx/AD. Post game festivities are best at the Recruiting Sponsors/Football Friends tent. Activities begin about two hours before game time.

We will have an away tailgate hosted by Jim & Joy Wasz at the \* **Yale Bowl on 10/8** at Noon. Details to follow. Homecoming will include a tailgate with the 80/81 folks and may get expanded into 78/82. That \* **Homecoming Game vs. Harvard 10/29 1:30pm** will also have details to follow.

\* **Princeton 11/5** in NJ at 1pm will have a tailgate with details to follow via email. The season will wrap up at home vs. \* **Brown 11/19 1:30pm** with another Recruiting Sponsors/Football Friends tailgate. Hope you can join us for one or more of these in person mini-reunions. Keep an eye out for details on email or email Maurice Simmons at [m.simmons5379@gmail.com](mailto:m.simmons5379@gmail.com) if you don't see an email from us. ❄️

# Harold "Hal" Ripley '29 Society Update

by Bill Mitchell '79

The Harold C. Ripley '29 Society was formed in 2009 to recognize alumni who have demonstrated a commitment to giving through the Dartmouth College Fund every year since graduation. Today, nearly 6,000 alumni belong to the Ripley Society, making annual giving to Dartmouth a priority each and every year.

Our class has 148 Hal Ripley Society members; classmates who have given to Dartmouth every year since graduation. While we don't have more than any other class there are many remarkable things about our contingent. Primarily, it is nearly 50% greater than any graduating class from the last century. It shows the dedication of our classmates to supporting students.

All our Hal Ripley members "re-upped" this year. We have a few contests during the year to help get funding in earlier so that class agents can focus on others during June. This year we had a contest to get money in before our graduation date. All Hal Ripley members who had made a contribution this fiscal year get a shot in the random drawing. Hal Ripley members on the Sustaining (recurring) gift program get two

chances. All givers are provided a random number between 0 and 1 courtesy of Bill Gates and the one nearest to 0.1979 won. Chip Fauver, who is sustaining contributor had both his chances in the top 10 but our winner was Lurette Semmes (<<< pictured here on the left).



Dr. Lurette Semmes is a Dermatologist living in northern Maryland. Still working (and who wouldn't with a six minute commute?) she is the proud mom of two kids, off on their own. Lurette has 1 and 7/9<sup>ths</sup> grandchildren as well. Her college rowing career has germinated into a cycling fanaticism. She will ride nearly 1,000 miles this year. She is in a few book clubs, loves the occasional North Mass calls and enjoys baking. Here is a picture of Dr. Lurette with her new hoodie! She says she'll be in attendance at our next reunion in 2025. ❄️

# Dartmouth Class of 79 Committee on Race

by the Committee

Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup>, '79 Committee on Race hosted: D79: Understanding Gender Identity, Pronouns and Intersectionality. The conversation was led by Amanda Rosenblum '07 & DGALA Vice President. The Committee on Race encourages you to tap the link below and enjoy Amanda's 28 minute briefing. The following impression of the evening is from an anonymous '79 classmate!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qioKjIKshy0>

"Wow! JUST Wow! This is a must see! Last night I joined some of our classmates in attending a powerful and enlightening zoom presentation/discussion on gender identity, a subject that in some way impacts each and every one of us. Gender is not Sexuality and can be an intimidating subject for boomers like us. We grew up in an "either or" binary world of only two genders. Our brilliant presenter, Amanda Rosenblum, Dartmouth '07 and DGALA Vice President revealed how subsequent generations, our kids and grandkids, are dismantling the barriers and developing fluid and inclusive language to describe the intersectional variations of how they identify and present who they really are. In less than 45 minutes my knowledge level and more importantly, my comfort level increased dramatically. Thanks to the '79 Committee on Race for making this possible. Wow! JUST Wow!" 🌟

A Celebration of Women: 50 Years of Coeducation at Dartmouth  
Hanover, NH  
November 11-12 2022



CALLING ALL '79 WOMEN!  
Send pix of you with your best college "gal pals" - then and/or now - to pat at [pjdj33@gmail.com](mailto:pjdj33@gmail.com). We will post them to our Instagram @dartmouth1979 throughout November - and then turn them into one special iMovie commemorating this landmark occasion !!!  
🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟🌟

Connect with Pat Pannell: [pjdj33@gmail.com](mailto:pjdj33@gmail.com)



# Dartmouth '79 Partners in Community Service Update

by Bill Mitchell '79

Want a great, fun, charitable experience? Be a mentor for an undergraduate in Dartmouth Partners in Community Service.

Serving on the Board of DPCS as Treasurer I "get" to be a mentor once in a while. This past spring, for the first time in 7 years, I got to mentor Austin Hyun, a 2023 from southern California. Austin was working at the LISTEN Thrift Center in the Hanover area this past spring term. Austin was working for Executive Director Angela Zane D'12 as an Analyst.

We met a half dozen times during the ten weeks, several times on Zoom, twice in his office and then a final restaurant dinner at the end. Coincidentally, Austin's job required him to understand and use Excel to help analyze inventory turnover and design/administer/interpret an employee survey. While I'll suggest that almost any '79 could have helped with these projects, the fact I had some actual experience with Excel/turnover/surveys in my 16 different corporate experiences worked to some advantage for Austin.

What is fantastic about the experience is seeing GenZ/iKids in action. Understanding

the thought processes and interactive capabilities of a generation through your mentee is a rewarding experience. Laughter lowers the age barriers and these kids just aren't as serious as the GenXers.

We have had 78 different classmate mentors in our DPCS class project with 108 mentees over the past 22 years. Would you like to be considered to be a mentor? If you are in Boston, Philadelphia or San Francisco markets I'd be particularly encouraging as



DPCS has several large cohort programs in these locations during the summer and we need more mentors there. Zoom has really helped the opportunity and value of mentoring at a distance as well so no matter where you are, or even if you travel, you can have a quality experience as a mentor from a distance.

Please let us know if you have interest in being a mentor here:  
<https://forms.gle/qZWVHox5asap5Tz77>



# Please make your gift to the Dartmouth College Fund >>



When you make a gift to the Dartmouth College Fund, 100% GOES TO FINANCIAL AID, so your donation—of any size—truly makes a difference. **THANK YOU** for giving early!

[www.dartmouthcollegefund.org](http://www.dartmouthcollegefund.org)



[1979.dartmouth.org/dues](http://1979.dartmouth.org/dues)

## << plus help your community & please pay your class of '79 dues.

# Many Thanks



### Visit Your Class of 1979 Social hyperlinks!

 Dartmouth '79 Class YouTube Channel:  
[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4zoDix2Mio7dSRMsbhi\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCa4zoDix2Mio7dSRMsbhi_Q)

 Dartmouth '79 Instagram Group:  
<https://www.instagram.com/dartmouth1979>

 Dartmouth '79 Class Facebook Group  
[www.facebook.com/groups/22531415191](http://www.facebook.com/groups/22531415191)

 Dartmouth '79 Class LinkedIn Group:  
[www.linkedin.com/groups/45189/](http://www.linkedin.com/groups/45189/)