



CLASS OF 1979 REUNION IN PRINT SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT:

'79 ONLINE VIRTUAL REUNION - MAY 28, 2020



INSIDE:

- Recap of the inaugural '79 *Online* virtual reunion event on May 28.
- Save The Date: June 20, 2020 for another '79 *Online* Virtual Event.
- Also- Week of June 14-20 for the College's **Pre-union** program of online events.
- Many updates from classmates near and far.
- Class Project: DPCS goes remote and is looking for more **Alumni Mentors**.
- DCF Summary and updates on our undergraduate DCF Scholars.



Martha Pollack '79, President of Cornell University.



Julian Schmoke listens in.



Jennifer Hughes laughs with dorm friends.

AN EVENING TO REMEMBER: THE FIRST '79 ONLINE

On May 28, 2020, *more than 200* classmates logged into the first ever *Dartmouth '79 Online* reunion event using the Zoom platform. What a wonderful gathering!

Forced to postpone our June 2020 reunion in Hanover by the global pandemic, our Reunion Planning Committee refused to take “Wait!” for an answer, so Otho Kerr and Dawn Hudson worked with Alumni Relations to create an innovative virtual **BUILDING BRIDGES** event.

By any measure, it was a huge success! It was exciting to see so many familiar (and often a tad blurry) faces and hear the immediate banter and camaraderie, while following the wisecrack remarks on the Chat feed. Despite a technical glitch or two (completely understandable given the groundbreaking format and scale), our worldwide tent extended ‘round the girdled earth from France to Thailand to Hanover- our base camp for the world.

The agenda included welcoming remarks from Class President **Mark Winkler** and Reunion Co-Chairs **Dawn Hudson and Otho Kerr**. Our renowned classmate, **Martha Pollack**, President of Cornell University, provided an insightful and hopeful overview of the challenges in higher education, especially the Ivy League schools, during the pandemic.

After Martha’s remarks, we watched an original video presentation by **Gemma Lockhart** about the importance of acknowledging that Dartmouth is located on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Abenaki people. Our class plans to have a land acknowledgement ceremony at our next gathering in Hanover to recognize the continued heritage of the Abenakis who still call these lands home.

Next, we heard and watched a presentation from the seven classmates who are co-authors of *The Confluence – A Collection of Essays, Art and Tall Tales about Fly Fishing and Friendship*. Each author read an excerpt from a chapter they wrote about the experience, while a slide show of photos and original paintings of the Grant accompanied the stories.

And finally, classmates were transferred into mini-reunion breakout rooms, supposedly by freshman dorm. Well, this is where a glitch occurred, as over half the people were put into a single room, resulting in some good-natured chaos. Others enjoyed chatting with their old dormmates, renewing connections and catching up on news. The feedback from this experiment was “let’s try that again and see if we can make it work!”

So, if you missed the event, don’t worry – we plan to have more *'79 Online* events soon. Look for more information about a class event on June 20 as a wrap-up to the College’s **Pre-union programming during the week of June 14-20**. More information to come! - David Van Wie, Newsletter Editor

NEWS FROM CLASSMATES

VIA CLASS SECRETARY STAN WEIL

Dev Jennings (Feb. 19, 2020): “In 1989, after finishing my studies at Stanford, I took a job as an assistant professor in the Sauder School of Business at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, B.C. Seemed like the perfect place: good research group, beautiful city, lots of skiing and soccer. In 2003, I left Vancouver to join my partner (now my wife) at the University of Alberta in Edmonton, where she had secured a tenure-track job. We were fortunate to find a dual placement (and side-by-side offices) and to share three kids, all now in (or finished with) university. We live in the "Texas of the North" (or at least the "old Texas"): Alberta has lots of oil, agriculture and tourism, with some tech around Edmonton and Calgary. So there is some polarization between world views such as what you see in the States. I was in the States in August seeing friends in the Bay Area. I keep in touch with **Rob Evans** (my former housemate in Hanover), **Gemma Lockhart** (one of my best friends at Dartmouth), and sometimes with **Jeanne Straus**.”

Judy Ornstein (Feb.25, 2020): “I am still happily teaching high school Social Studies, and grateful that I have gotten to spend most of my career in a great school district (Jericho) on Long Island. My husband (Joel Peskoff, Stony Brook 1979) retired in November from a 35-year career in management at the MTA, and it's an adjustment to have him home while I trudge off to work. (But I have to acknowledge, it would probably take about six years of me going off to work while he's sipping coffee in his bathrobe to make up for all the school vacations and summers over all these years that the shoe was on the other foot.) I'm thinking about retiring after next year, but since we had our kids late in life (my youngest is 19), and they are taking the slow boat through college and towards adulthood, we'll have to see whether that works out financially.”



Chris Bryan sends his greetings, while standing in front of the ER entrance in a blizzard in Colorado Springs.

This was in March.

“We had hail yesterday. There were a few inches of it on the ground in our yard,” he added.



WHY GIVE MONEY TO DARTMOUTH?

We attended an enormously generous college, generosity fostered by the alumni that preceded us. Now, as much as ever, we need to continue to support our college.

- Over half of all students and 59% of all incoming '24s, receive some financial aid.
- This year, the DCF supplies 59% of the funds used for financial aid.
- Dartmouth currently provides a college education without work-study or debt to students with a family income <\$100,000. This will increase to \$125,000 in 2021. This pledge is honored even for students who are admitted but have their circumstances change after admission (e.g. parent job loss).
- Dartmouth is losing \$80 million this term due to lost room and board revenue, net of board costs. It will lose \$20 million more this summer.
- 2,000 current students have requested additional financial aid since March.
- More DCF funding and participants = better bond rating and lower interest rates, more funds for scholarships.
- We can't just raid the endowment. 83% of endowed funds are restricted and withdrawal rates are regulated.
- Under President Hanlon, financial aid has been increased above the rate of inflation while cost increases are held below at less than 2%.

HOW TO SUPER-CHARGE YOUR DCF GIFT THIS YEAR

Thanks to the generosity of several classmates, you can super-charge your 2020 reunion gift in a year when the College faces extraordinary financial needs. Here's how it works.

If you double your 2019 gift (to \$79 or more), several good-looking, athletic, and really smart classmates will make a **combined "matching" contribution of \$1,979** in your honor to the DCF. That's right, if you double last year's gift of, say, \$200 to \$400 this year, your classmates will give an additional \$1979 to the DCF in your honor. Wow!

OR, if you make a **first-time gift of \$2,500 or more**, you become a member of the 1769 Society and your classmates will contribute **an additional \$1,979** to the DCF in your honor. So, go ahead, super-charge it!

UPDATE FROM “OUR” UNDERGRADUATE DCF SCHOLARS DURING COVID-19

As we reported last newsletter, our class “won” two DCF Scholars thanks to our sensational fundraising in 2018 and 2019. We introduced you to both Hannah Rubin, a senior from Maine, and Leah Casey, a junior from Ohio, in the Winter newsletter.

With the closure of most campus operations and cancellation of off-campus programs this spring due to the pandemic, Laurie Laidlaw Deacon and Billy Mitchell decided to check in with each of them on Zoom. Here’s what they had to say:

HANNAH RUBIN ‘20 - I'm in Maine for the term and taking online classes. I never expected to have to move back to my parent’s house, so it’s been a bit of an adjustment. My parents and my younger brother are also working/schooling from home right now, so our house feels pretty crowded and we take any opportunity that we can to get outside safely. I had planned to take a year off after graduation and work or adventure before grad school, but it seems like this is a particularly bad time to be searching for a job. Instead, I was accepted to a PhD program in environmental engineering at the University of Tennessee in collaboration with Oak Ridge National Lab. So, it looks like I’ll be moving to Tennessee in July!

This is definitely not the senior spring I had hoped for and I feel as though I never had the chance to say goodbye to Dartmouth and my friends. But there are many things to look forward to and I can only hope that this pandemic ends quickly without too great a toll. It sounds like I’ll see you in 2021 for a delayed graduation and reunion!

LEAH CASEY ‘21 - This spring, I was supposed to be in New York City as one of the litigation legal assistant interns at Cravath, Swaine, and Moore LLP. Because of the pandemic, though, I’m at home in Ohio with my family for the term, studying for the LSAT and doing research with a professor in the english department. I feel lucky that I’m able to stay in a safe place while we wait this thing out – and we will!

My research (through the Presidential Scholars Program) has been a really rewarding activity to keep me occupied while at home! I’m doing background research on Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; the professor I’m working with is writing an article about Sir Gawain, so I get to research what’s been said about areas of the poem he’s interested in! Even away from Dartmouth, the granite of New Hampshire is still in my muscles and brain!

More than anything, this pandemic has reinforced for me, and I’m sure for many others, that Dartmouth is so much more than a physical place. I’m looking forward to giving an in-person rouse for dear ol’ Dartmouth after this is all over, but until then, I’m enjoying my virtual Dartmouth experience, and hope you all are too! Thank you all for making my education possible, and for making the College on the Hill available to so many students, on or off campus.

Over half of Dartmouth students received financial aid in 2019. Dartmouth has received 2,000 requests from students for new and additional financial aid this year. The college needs \$10 million more in scholarship aid for fiscal 2021. If you have helped already, thanks. If you can help more, even better!



Our Class of '79 DCF Scholar Hannah Rubin '20 paddles on Tunk Stream in Maine.

'79 REUNION YEAR FUNDRAISING UPDATE

COVID-19 notwithstanding, this is our reunion year for fundraising. We realize this may be a tougher year for many of our classmates to make an ambitious financial gift to the college. Nevertheless, this is a year when participation and paying it forward are critical themes.

Dartmouth typically gets 40% of its Dartmouth College Fund contributions from reunion classes. The most recent six 40th reunion classes gave 2.7 times their trailing average during their reunion giving campaign. The records for DCF contributions at a 40th reunion are \$6.1M (Class of 78) and 500 gifts (Class of 77).

As of June 5, 2020, the Participatory™ '79s had 399 contributors and \$899,000 in the bank or pledged for our reunion giving total. The students are grateful for the gifts from so many classmates.

Last year, our class finished with 597 contributors, a number we are grateful for but still want to exceed this year. Can you help us get to 679 this year? The giving deadline is June 30, so please make your gift now.

If you have yet to make a contribution, please know that any gift helps provide financial aid for the 50% + of students that receive it. One of the great changes at Dartmouth since the '70s is the much wider socio-economic reach that Dartmouth has achieved thanks to the generosity of alums.

Thanks for your generosity! Whether your gift is large or small, what is important is that we give back to Dartmouth when and in whatever amount we can. We are still reaching for our reunion year goals, so please help us get there. - Bill Mitchell, Head Agent

AROUND THE GIRDLED EARTH...

...WITH SCOTT FOSTER FROM FRANCE



I was looking forward to connecting with classmates in Hanover for our reunion, but a direct conflict with meetings in Geneva and a graduation in Rochester, New York, meant I was planning sadly to pass. The coronavirus pandemic locked us down here in France where we live, the reunion and the meetings were postponed, and the graduation went online. However, with the postponement, if everything goes according to plan (?), I hope I will be attending reunion next year.

I would love to connect with my freshman crowd from Cohen Hall and the Choates. Many may not be around, I fear. Maybe I'll be proven wrong. My frosh roommate **Dave Swanson** left Dartmouth sophomore year, and the one and only [Gary Davis](#) unfortunately passed away in 2009. **Sue Szczesniak** was major stalwart throughout the years, but she went off and married her high school sweetheart never to be seen again. I will see who else shows when this time next year rolls around.

So, what are we doing locked up in France? Locked down, I suppose! We have been in confinement since March 17 and things are only slowly starting to open. The world of work changed completely, and I don't think it will go back to what we once knew. I am married to Elodie from Amiens, have been since 1993. Our five kids range from 25 to 12, with the 18-, 22-, and 25-year-olds still doing graduate/post-graduate work and the 12- and 15-year-olds in junior high and high school. I run the UN's energy program out of Geneva. Had the good chance to meet Dartmouth President Hanlon this year on his swing through Europe – he is extremely approachable! That put me in contact with a great Dartmouth Club in Geneva. There also is an active Dartmouth Club of France, but they do ALL of their events on Thursdays when I'm in Geneva. Of course, the Geneva club does their events on the weekends, when I'm in Paris! Argh.

It was great fun seeing everyone virtually for our 79 Online Reunion on the 28th. In the hopes that sensible re-opening with testing, tracing, and isolation succeeds in tempering the COVID-19 wrath so that our rescheduled reunion can actually take place, I look forward to seeing you all in reality in 2021.



A VIRTUAL WINE TASTING WITH CALLUNA VINEYARDS

In our last newsletter, we saw that **David Jeffrey's** Calluna Vineyards was recognized by *Wine Spectator* magazine. In April, more than 50 of our classmates logged on to a Zoom event to enjoy a virtual wine tasting with David and his son Peter with rave reviews by all accounts. Most had ordered the four featured wines from Calluna, while some simply listened in while sipping their own favorite vintage. David and Calluna continue to offer these tastings online, so for more information go to www.callunavineyards.com.





A DROPPED BALL FROM GARY SIMONDS



*Ed. Note: Gary Simonds and I played rugby together for several years. He passed me the ball many times, a few of which I dropped. Here is one "ball" I dropped a few newsletters back, when I overlooked his submission to the **Traditions with Classmates** issue. This is Gary's submission, a bit late, but it fits nicely with our **Reunion in Print** theme.*

"I try to stay in touch with a bunch of '79ers including **Jeff Price, Loring Andersen, Jay French, Steve Manacek, Peter Robinson, Roger Sullivan, Tim Sykes**, to name a few. Every year we connect electronically and make earnest plans to get together at some desirable locale. There is always much enthusiasm and high spirits. Then, as tradition would have it, we do not follow through, for one or many of a myriad of reasons. Small factions have succeeded – usually with an epicenter of Jeff and Roger, but for the most part, it is always an abject failure. We are not even any good at making reunions. Such is the pity. When we have reunited, all vestments of adulthood, parenthood, professionalism, and maturity are shed, and we regress comfortably to our undergraduate selves – selves that nowadays would most assuredly be de-convocated from the college. In other words, we have a blast.

Going forward, I hope there should be much opportunity for getting together—for example, I would like to see us all take a Dartmouth Alumni Trip together. My wife and I took one to the D-Day beaches several years ago and it was outstanding. But time is not boundless and we will have to accomplish such things before our joints get wear out completely or, I suppose, coordinate when we will have them replaced and congregate in our convalescence." - Gary

SEEKING ALUMNI MENTORS FOR DARTMOUTH PARTNERS IN COMMUNITY SERVICE

Either as a parent or in our professional lives, few things are nearly as satisfying as having a young(er) person call you their "mentor." Our Class Project, *Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS)*, has given that opportunity to more than 90 of us '79s who have been alumni mentors to undergrads interning with a community service organization during their "off" term.

Our Class Gift is supported by over 70% of our "dues paying" classmates, so THANK YOU! These funds help subsidize room and board for DPCS undergrads while they perform valuable, "hands on" volunteer work with social impact non-profit agencies throughout the country. And four '79s currently volunteer on the DPCS Alumni Advisory Board to help steward this mission. Due to COVID-19, we are pivoting our summer internships to remote internships, working with community groups in Boston, Philadelphia, San Francisco as well as "design-your-own" internships throughout the country. This presents an outstanding opportunity for '79s who wish to be DPCS alumni mentors. Customarily, we seek alumni mentors geographically close to where the intern will be working. With this summer's remote internships, alumni mentors can participate from anywhere.

What an awesome way to connect with Dartmouth undergrads today in a very personal, valuable way! Many of our classmates will attest that being a DPCS alumni mentor is quite a rewarding experience and some have maintained relationships well beyond the student's graduation. If you'd like to be considered for a DPCS alumni mentoring assignment this summer or beyond, shoot **Stanley Weil** Stanno79@gmail.com or **Jim Wasz** jwasz1979@gmail.com an email.

CATCHING UP WITH...

**Pat Crowell and
Bill Hicks**
in March 1979

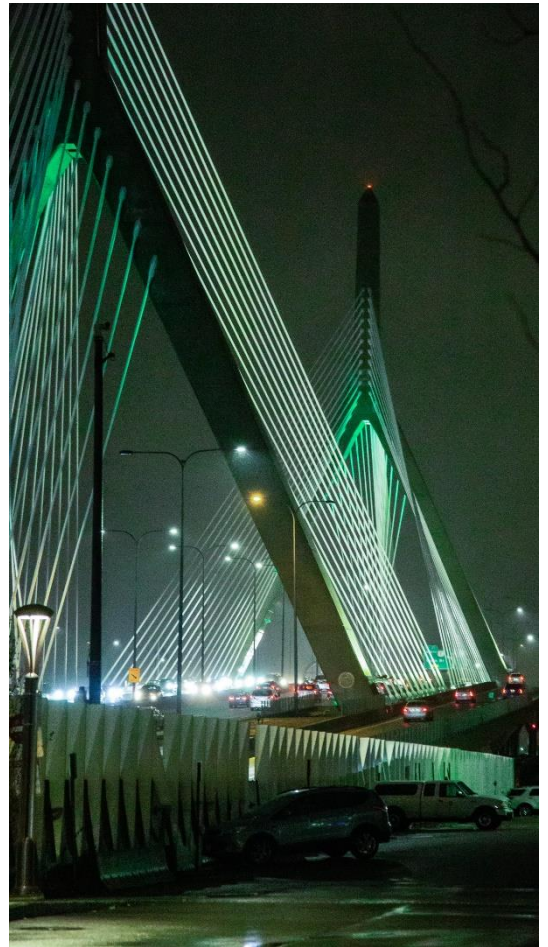


Pat Crowell (May 2020) living near Portland, Oregon: I was very much looking forward to our reunion, and to improve the experience I contacted a few classmates to encourage them to attend. I exchanged emails with **Tish Davis, Bill Hicks** (*in photo above on right*), **Brendan Cameron, Charlie Hatton, and Chip Fauver**, among others. I had a great phone conversation with **Jeff Cross** that came out of the flurry of messages from SAE members after the sudden, sad passing of **Dave Philhower**. In doing so, I enjoyed some good exchanges with a number of classmates with whom I had not had contact for a number of years. So, absent the trip to Hanover, at least we have that.

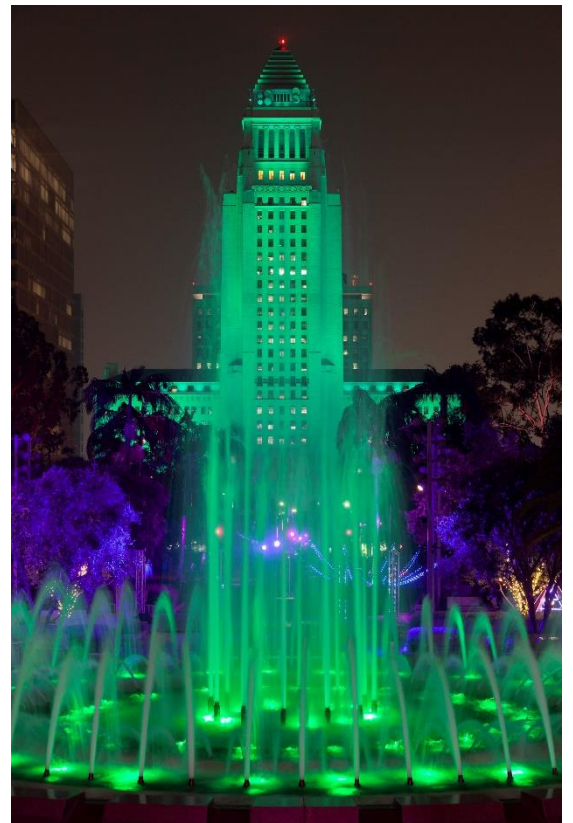
I hadn't yet sent emails to others I also wanted to encourage to attend, including **Jeff Cloud, Terry French, Jan Smedley, Donna Smyers, Joe Greco, Margaret Avril, Jeff Price** -- as you can see the list is daunting and this isn't all of it. Then the novel coronavirus hit and I lost heart. Now that we've digested the disappointment, maybe I'll take up my quill again to re-establish contact. Or anyone who wants can Facetime me at 503-516-1362, or Zoom me at patrickcrowell79@gmail.com

The capsule update on my life and times is that I'm career-free, and Susie and I are enjoying our status as first-time grandparents with a daughter and son-in-law within babysitting distance. Our 29-year-old son lives in town and is doing well. Susie and I each have a married sibling also in town; mine is John, Class of '77, but only my father, John also, Dartmouth '52, survives of our parents' generation.

Until the COVID-19 issue and "murder hornets," the Pacific Northwest seemed the most pacific part of the country. It remains a pretty good place to live.



Greenlighting landmarks from Boston (top) to LA (below) for Dartmouth's 250th Charter Day in December 2019.



CATCHING UP WITH...

Jim Feuille (May 2020)– After Dartmouth I spent four years in grad school at Stanford getting JD and MBA degrees. I then spent the next nineteen years in tech investment banking, and the following sixteen years in tech venture capital. Beginning with the fall of 2018, I moved to the Upper Valley to take a position at Tuck at Dartmouth, heading up the Tuck Center for Private Equity and Venture Capital. After renting in Hanover for a year, my wife Nancy and I bought a house on the Connecticut River (with a dock) twenty miles north in Orford, NH. Classmates are always welcome! I am still active with my venture capital firm in San Francisco, which means I spend roughly 2/3 of my time in the Upper Valley and 1/3 in San Francisco. I'm loving the combination.

The Upper Valley—its beauty and its outdoor adventures—is as amazing as it was back in our College days! And, of course, there are no withdrawal symptoms from San Francisco since I still have a home there and spend 1/3 of my time there. Four great kids—a GI doc in San Francisco, a tech venture capitalist in LA, a public health policy professional now in law school in that lesser school in New Haven, and an aspiring actor in New York. What is clear to me? Well, most certainly that coming to Dartmouth from a public school in El Paso, TX—the first native El Pasoan ever to attend Dartmouth—had a profound impact on my life in every conceivable way. I'm thankful to Dartmouth and to my '79 classmates for what continues to be a wonderful lifelong journey as a son of Dartmouth.



Jim and Nancy gather with classmates in Hanover celebrating Buddy Teevens' 100th win in football in October 2019.

THE GREATEST REUNION OF ALL

BY OTHO KERR

For the past two years, I've been working hard with Dawn Hudson and a spirited team of classmates planning what was certain to be an exceptional 40th Reunion. To say that I was looking forward to being in Hanover this year is an understatement. Sadly, COVID-19 had other plans, and our reunion has been pushed to next year. Yet in the process of co-chairing the reunion, it's likely that I already had the best reunion I could have had – a reunion with my best friend from freshman year, someone who started with us but who chose not to finish with us.

I was one of a few freshmen who lived in Chase House, a tiny dorm attached to Tuck. Who knows why we connect with the folks that we do, but one of my Chase floormates – **Walter O'Brien** – became my closest friend that year. Walter was a storyteller, always armed with a joke. He was joyful and full of optimism, as charming as one could be. He was a strong student and an all-around athlete. I suppose there was a part of me that wanted to be more like Walter. We spent most of our leisure time that year hanging out together, and we rushed and joined the same fraternity. We were pretty inseparable. As freshman year came to an end, we made plans to be roommates the following fall. As it turns out, fate had other plans.

A month before we were to return to campus, I visited Walter at his home outside of Philly. During that visit, Walter dropped a bombshell on me – he had decided not to return to Dartmouth. It wasn't for him. I was stunned. In a flash, I lost my closest friend at Dartmouth and my rooming situation was suddenly upended. I was crushed. Devastated. I was to return to Dartmouth – without Walter. I actually felt a little lost for a bit upon my return.

Walter and I stayed in close touch through the eighties, then the nineties intervened, and before I knew it thirty years slipped by since we had last touched base. As a reunion co-chair, I have had the privilege to think about all of my classmates, and where they've gone, but at the top of that list was Walter.

So, I googled Walter and reached out to him about a year ago, and after a few engaging emails, we reunited in Washington, D.C. this past October. With the constraint of only three hours together, we caught up where we could. Our lives have been rich and full in extraordinarily different ways. Walter is still charming and armed with jokes, but he now has a family that includes four children and three grandchildren. Time didn't stop. I don't think I've ever been more grateful for a reunion. Of course, I managed to survive at Dartmouth without Walter, and she opened her arms to me in new ways, but I wish I could have shared her fully with Walter.



SAVE THE DATE!!

'79 ONLINE 2.0

JUNE 20, 2020

Join us on June 20, 2020 for '79 Online (Part 2) which will coincide with the final day of *Dartmouth's Pre-union Week of Virtual Inspiration, June 14-20.*

Watch for more details at <https://preunions.dartmouth.edu/>

And soon on our class website:

www.1979.dartmouth.org

