Homecoming Mini Reunion Draws a Crowd of ’71s

More than 60 classmates and significant others gathered for the numerous 1971 Homecoming festivities. High points were the Friday night dinner and tribute to the undefeated 1970 football team, the class annual meeting Saturday morning, a rousing come-from-behind 20-13 victory over Yale and a splendid victory dinner at the Hanover home of Tom and Judy Oxman. The capstone was a farewell Sunday brunch at Kathy Rines’ beautiful home in Etna.

Thanks to the class leadership, the ’71s secured the Zimmerman Lounge at Blunt Alumni Center as a viewing stand for the bonfire on the Green. This would have been a terrific venue under any circumstances, but with rain throughout most of the evening, our Class managed to stay dry, at least weather-wise.

The fabulous turnout foreshadows a number of major class events throughout 2016. First will be the gathering in Naples, Fla. hosted by Jim and Yola Rager. This has been moved up to the “high” season in February. See details on the next page.

And of course, under Bob Lider’s stewardship, the plans for the 45th Reunion in mid-June are well under way. The preliminary details for this extravaganza are on Page 3.
President’s Letter

“Service”

Legenda Deerfield Headmaster Frank Boyden often noted “the test of the worth of any school is the record of service of her alumni.” As I look around our class and see the work classmates are doing, Tom Wolf serving Pennsylvania as Governor, Bill Conway in his generosity feeding the homeless in DC, or Professor Bill Phillips teaching future generations Dartmouth students/ thought leaders. I am reminded that this class “gets it.”

Transparency: Page 8 breaks out for you how your class dues go to serve this great class and her community. Our class was responsible for $53,000 in community or Dartmouth related contributions; 69% of your $71 in dues went in support of our service to others. Thank you for your generosity.

45th Reunion: We are the first class at Dartmouth to underwrite a 45th Reunion Class Book. We placed the 25th reunion book on our web page so you can be sure your write up aligns with the first 25! Please take the time to complete your entry for the enjoyment of your fellow class mates and to enjoy the self-reflection it will occasion.

Challenge: Three critical challenges in 2016 are 1) to raise our DCF contribution level from 44% to 71%, 2) to raise our class dues percentage from 38% to 50% - to better our support our funding of worthy class projects and 3) to present our class with an exceptional reunion experience. A Great Class does Great Things: Please join us in meeting the challenges and serving our class and community!

-- Peter

Naples Mini Reunion February 18-21, 2016 Hosted by Jim and Yola Rager For more information contact ragerjim@gmail.com

This is the third mini reunion in beautiful Naples, Florida. Many of the events held last year will be reprised, but with some new and exciting locations. Full details: http://1971.dartmouth.org

Thursday: Welcoming reception 6 p.m. Naples Bay Resort

Friday: Three options:
• Golf
• Location TBD
• Fishing:
• Jim has arranged for organized offshore or backwater fishing. 
• Cruising:
• Aboard the Island Dreamer, through Naples Bay to Marco Island; lunch on Marco Island

Friday dinner: Three options:
• Turtle Bay Club 
• Bay House Restaurant
• Music Under the Stars

Saturday Golf, fishing or cruising 

For those who would like a more leisurely Saturday, stroll over to Fifth Avenue for the 37th Annual Naples Arts Festival.

Saturday Dinner
As Jim writes: “Yola and I are once again pleased to invite all mini-reunion attendees to our home for cocktails and dinner; Open House begins at 6:30 PM.”

Sunday Farewell Brunch Country Club of Naples, 10 AM

By Bob Lider, 45th Reunion Chair

Note: Registration information will be sent March 1. Here is a preview of exciting events: Our class will be joining the classes of ’70 and ’72 for a cluster reunion. Two special cluster social events have been scheduled, band night on Friday, June 17 and a Hanover Inn catered lunch on Saturday, June 18 on Baker lawn. Finally, the three cluster classes are sharing talent and collaborating on panel discussions. Jim Nachtwyk ’72, a world famous photographer, will present on Friday afternoon.

Another panel discussion, “Innovators”, will be chaired by Dan Cooperman ’72, former General Legal Counsel at Apple under Larry Ellison. Our classmate Ron Harris (Bloomberg) will participate on this panel together with other distinguished Dartmouth graduates. A third panel discussion, “Entertainment”, will be chaired by classmate Bill Phillips. Bill is a film professor at Dartmouth and accomplished writer/director of numerous documentaries and movies. (See profile, Page 4.) The reunion food Co-Chairs, Mickey Stuart and Pete Webster, have carefully selected local/regional caterers that will prepare special menus, including a welcome buffet dinner in our class tent on Thursday evening and at our Saturday Clambake dinner. Barry Brink, reunion Co-Chair, has put together two CD music compilations, “artists who performed on campus” and “music from my dorm room”, that will be offered free of charge for attendees.

Music will be an important component of our 45th reunion. Live jazz will be performed in our class tent on Thursday evening and at our Saturday Clambake dinner. Barry Brink, reunion Co-Chair, has put together two CD music compilations, “artists who performed on campus” and “music from my dorm room”, that will be offered free of charge for attendees.

A memorial service for our fallen classmates will be held on Saturday morning at Rollins Chapel. Also scheduled is a Friday late afternoon tribute to Professor Barry Rissias. Finally, there will be golf, tennis, hiking and Pilates on Thursday of reunion weekend, lectures by leading Dartmouth professors on Friday and Saturday, as well as various Upper Valley Tours, among other events.

Note: We have a terrific location for the Class tent, directly in front of Alumni Gym.

Housing: The College will make available modern dorm rooms in the East Wheelock Cluster for $45 per night. Sign up after registration opens March 1.

Big Plans for 45th Reunion: Panels, Music, Great Food, Sports, More

June 16-19, 2016

Finally, Coach Buddy Teevens has graciously agreed to host our Sunday Brunch at Floren Varsity House. Coach Teevens will discuss our championship football program and will open this magnificent athletic facility for a tour.

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The ’71 Interview

Bill Phillips: Screenwriter, Film Director, Dartmouth Professor

The Newsletter recently caught up with Bill for a wide-ranging interview. Excerpts below.

Why Dartmouth?

Dartmouth is the only college I applied to. A trip to Hanover in February of my junior year in high school, during a beautiful snowstorm, made me realize this school was for me. It just looked like a place I could settle down and be serious as a student. I had been the class clown in high school. I never even liked film that much until spring term sophomore year at Dartmouth, and even then, I just took the Film History course from 87-year-old Arthur Mayer because I wanted to watch movies and call it work. I loved it so much (although much to my surprise it was work!) that I stayed with it. I still like being able to call it work when I watch movies. It satisfies that Protestant work ethic I’m stuck with, and it also satisfies the I.R.S.!

And then?

I graduated from USC with an MFA in Cinema, so I took the kind of job you can get with an MFA right out of school. I counted bricks and boards in a lumberyard on Cape Cod. One day I got a call from a friend who was leaving his filmmaking job at Dartmouth Medical School. I phone interviewed for the job, then went up and got it. I stayed there for five years. She’s a great proofreader and editor of Dartmouth’s Creative Writing Program. Isn’t that the state with no state taxes? My accountant said, “New Hampshire is a great place to live with no state income tax!”

You didn’t stay in L.A. for all that long.

I moved back to Hanover in December of ’83. Just had my first feature made, CHRISTINE. I really missed my kids, who stayed with my ex-wife Liz in New Hampshire. Moving back could have been a risky decision professionally, but my agent assured me that I was well-enough established that I could live anywhere and my accountant said, “New Hampshire. Isn’t that the state with no state income tax? Yeah, move there.”

I married Cleopatra Mathis, founder of Dartmouth’s Creative Writing Program, and we were married for 20 years. She’s a great proofreader and critic. I would often rewrite a rough draft six or seven times before sending it off to my agent as “a first draft.” We’re still friends, but divorce is never easy.

Did you come back to Dartmouth to teach?

At first, I was just a full-time writer, but slowly I got into teaching... first just one course a year. I find the students welcome someone who has been in the trenches, who can tell them what it’s like. In 2000 I taught at Boston University. They had seven professors. Only two of us (Phillips and Steve Geller, Dartmouth ’62) had been produced. The others had never been treated crummmily by producers, never been beat up, never seen their work hard to recognize... Or elevated. When Henry Fonda read a line of mine, it suddenly became ‘good.’

Six months later, they found me and told me I had won. They made the film: SUMMER SOLSTICE, starring Henry Fonda and Myrna Loy in their last film for each of them. It got good ratings, good reviews, and (thanks to Ernie Lehman, then president of the Writers’ Guild, whom I had met at Dartmouth a year earlier) it got me an agent. For the next 30 years, I worked constantly as a screenwriter. I’ve written about 50 scripts under contract, and about 25 of them have been made, whether Theatrical, TV, Miniseries or Cable. I had a wonderful agent who would switch around venues and genres: romance, horror, police procedural, comedy, western, drama.

I teach Screenwriting I and II. In Screenwriting I, the students write the beginning of a feature, something we call the scenario, a one page description. Who is the protagonist, the antagonist? Who is the love interest or best friend? Every once in awhile people will say, “I really don’t have an antagonist.” Like the antagonist is world hunger or poverty. And I allow people to try this, but it’s Rascallous. You need someone to kiss at.

Right. Without real conflict, it’s flat.

‘Hey, mom, these are good mashed potatoes.’ ‘You’d like some turkey?’ ‘Yeah, that’s the best turkey.’ It’s boring. But when grandma stands up and stabs someone in the heart, then you’ve got a story.

It seems the “conflict” in your latest film, SABRA, was between the idealized pastoral Vermont depicted in Sabra Field’s woodblocks vs. the sometimes gritty reality of little towns, mud, and polluted rivers.

Bob McGrath (Dartmouth professor of art emeritus) was very nice to be the bad guy. As Sabra said, “We don’t have conflict until he (McGrath) says, “Where are all the dead fish?” Bob had a reasonable point. (See http://www.sabrafilm.com)

What’s next?

I’m writing a film I hope to give to Julie Christie to play. They say one should write what you know. This is about the nature of love in old age.

How do you get Julie Christie to take a look at a script?

She has no idea who I am or that I exist. I’m lucky, though. My agent is now retired but she is best friends with Julie Christie’s manager. And she said, “Julie does one film a year. And it better be good.” And I said “well, I’m not going to send you a bad script.” But this is unusual. Usually when you get to that level of stardom, it’s a crapshoot.

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The Dartmouth class of 1971 has, well, a love affair of sorts with the College. I can't think of a better way to summarize the results of our latest class survey, which asked classmates a series of questions about their college experience and their current attitudes about their college years. In every case, the answers showed that a big majority of the members of the class had very positive attitudes about their four years in Hanover and still felt a strong attachment to Dartmouth. To be more specific:

- Of the 150 or so respondents (by the way, that's a record number), more than half indicated they still felt strongly attached—in some way or the other—to Dartmouth.
- About 60% remember their overall academic and social experiences in a very positive light, and a full 90% think their Dartmouth education has had a positive influence on their personal and professional life.
- Half still count classmates as among their best friends, and 80% think the culture at the College is even better today than it was from 1967-1971.

I've worked in the magazine world for 40+ years, so the fact that about three quarters of the class reads the Alumni magazine pretty closely seemed pretty impressive.

The survey also asked who planned to attend the class' 45th reunion in June: about 40% said "yes," and 60% said "no." When asked about which reunion activities would be most appealing, classmates voted overwhelmingly for a cocktail hour followed by a class dinner.

Of the 92 classmates who responded to the open-ended question--"Are you glad you went to Dartmouth?"—all but a handful said "yes," and the most common comment was, maybe what else, but "I loved it."

--Frank Anton

David Aylward, Editor of Our 45th Reunion Book, Needs Your Help.

David writes:

PLEASE spend 30 minutes to help us create a 45th Reunion Class Book. Dartmouth has downloaded the basics about each of us into our on line book website. Your mission is to quickly verify the data, and then add comments in memory of deceased classmates on your life post Dartmouth and upload a few minutes to educate - or entertain! – class brothers. Mark Bellonby has also based on zip codes and 2) a sort by affiliation, e.g. features are 1) a geographical sort for all classmates or they will do it with email from the website - your preference. Dartmouth cares a lot about data security. Once in, verify the personal data already entered by the college data dump, verify your picture, and then have fun telling your story, adding pictures, and answering a couple of questions. Classmates who do not access the internet can send us their story and we will manually enter it. This website will stay up permanently. Two cool features are 1) a geographical sort for all classmates based on zip codes and 2) a sort by affiliation, e.g. your fraternity brothers. Mark Bellonby has also uploaded the 25th reunion book to this portal. Please complete your entries by January 25 (your gift to the editors) so we may mail the books well before the June reunion.
The Class of 1971 contributed $53,000 toward philanthropic activity in 2015. Of this, $13,715 came from Class dues, helping to support major projects outlined below. In addition, individual classmates contributed $23,000 to the MS Walk.

Below are summaries of the various efforts:

### Hovey Murals

**Promotion of our Hovey Murals Book through the Dartmouth Alumni Magazine ads**

*Class Lead: Mickey Stuart*

Following our successful publication of the history of the Hovey Murals book, we decided to help promote the history and the sales of the books by placing four color ads in the DAM. We have also had the book reproduced in digital form and will make it available through our class website.

### Glee Club/Barbary Coast

**$3,500**

Scholarships, Spring 2016 tours of Cuba by student performers.

*Class Lead: Peter Pratt*

The Class of 1971 has contributed $3,500 to help several students, members of the Glee Club and Barbary Coast, cover costs of trips to Cuba this year, now that U.S.-Cuba relations are normalizing.

### Class of 1971 Scholarship Fund

**$10,071**

Scholarship Criteria: Scholastic excellence, demonstrated leadership skills and global focus.

*Class Lead: Peter Pratt*

The Class Scholarship was conceived in honor of Professor John Rassias and John Sloan Dickey who worked tirelessly to inculcate those values in the class of 1971.

### Class of 1971 MS Walk

**$23,000**

All from individuals

*Class Lead: Steve Zrike*

On April 12, Team Zrike led all groups in the MS Walk in Boston, collecting $23,000, some 60% from classmates. This class project reaches into our communities and support the research. Classmates from across the country gave generously: This is our 4th year of commitment and we raised $2,000 more than last year.

Note: 2016 MS Walk April 3.

### Dartmouth Partners in Community Service

**$3,000**

*Class Lead: Pete Webster*

Classmate Ron Olsen worked with and mentored Angela Noppenberger ’17 out in Seattle, Wa. during the Winter Term 2015. Angela worked with Neighborhood House, serving low income residents with the goal of building self-sufficiency. Olsen found the mentoring experience ‘profoundly rewarding’.

### Rockefeller Center Public Policy Internship Fund

**$4,000**

*Class Lead: Pete Ruegger*

The Class of ’71 Public Policy Internship Fund made possible the experience for Eric Jung ’17 to work in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York. Eric had the unusual opportunity to experience some high profile issues such as international terrorism, financial fraud, corruption and organized crime. Eric actually got to be present in the courtroom for many of these cases and engage with some hands-on work typically reserved for law school students.

### Renovations to Memorial Field

**$2,000**

*Class Lead: Peter Pratt*

Contributed to the current West Stand renovation at Memorial Field, to commemorate the countless alumni who paid the ultimate price in serving our nation as well as the countless alumni who served their country in peace and war.