



Dear Classmates,

Before the May 2015 alumni council began, I headed over to The Dartmouth Bookstore where I bought Professor Peter Bien's new translation of *Zorba the Greek*. So why a new translation? As Prof. Bien notes, the earlier translation was made by someone who didn't know Greek. Just reading Bien's introduction is worth the price of the book.

I still remember Prof. Bien explaining how the Greek word for leaves falling from a tree was literally "de-arming." That remarkable image has stuck with me for over 40 years.

#### HANLON'S VISION

Early on in the conference, President Phil Hanlon '77 laid out his vision. He is determined to attract top rate academics and to prepare graduates who will make a difference in the world. While we will remain an institution with liberal arts at its core, Hanlon said we need to hit "home runs" to make that kind of difference.

With so much knowledge that can be downloaded for free, Hanlon talked about the importance of experiential learning.

Hanlon told us that Dartmouth intends to expand the Thayer School significantly.

He also said that the "Dartmouth Thrives" program, which will include components modeled after the successful Dartmouth Peak Performance (DP2) leadership program—aimed now at student athletes—is being developed as part of President Hanlon's Moving Dartmouth Forward initiative.

Worth noting. Ledyard Canoe Club and the Moosilauke lodge are being rebuilt.

#### BAN ON HARD ALCOHOL

The Moving Dartmouth Forward initiative is changing life on the Hanover Plain. Since a ban on hard alcohol went into effect in the beginning of the spring term, transports of

intoxicated students to the hospital or Dick's House have decreased significantly. The new emphasis will be socializing around wine or beer.

The Interim Dean of the College, Inge-Lise Ameer, said that Dartmouth continued to move toward a reorganization of residential life in which dormitories would be grouped as communities of houses. There will be six house communities in all – each composed of about 700 students, about half in residence at any one time – and each with a house professor.

The house professors will each serve a four-year term beginning July 1, 2015, and will move into on-campus residences near their respective house communities the following summer. The six house professors include biologist [Ryan Calsbeek](#), astrophysicist [Ryan Hickox](#), engineer [Jane Hill](#), sociologist [Kathryn Lively](#), mathematician [Craig Sutton](#), and Japanese literary scholar [Dennis Washburn](#).

I remember John Sloan Dickey's global vision which today inspires the John Sloan Dickey's Center for International Understanding. This summer the Dickey Center hosted 25 young African leaders for six weeks on campus.

Several students talk about how projects from working in a village in South Africa to consulting for a nonprofit in Peru have changed them.

The enormous cost of a college education came up. Bill Helman '80, chairman of the board of Dartmouth, said the cost of a year is actually \$100,000—beyond the apparent price of \$61,000. It's our contributions to the Alumni Fund and other college drives that brings down the real cost.

#### ADD TO YOUR AGENDA

How can we stay engaged with the college? Here are a couple of ideas.

1. Dartmouth's first nation-wide Alumni Day of Service was held on May 2. Hundreds of alumni, family members and friends volunteered for 24 projects in 20 communities. You can [view an article and photos from the day](#). This is a grassroots effort that depends on alumni groups organizing a volunteer project in their community—a tremendous way to engage the far-flung Dartmouth community.
2. The leadership of the Alumni Council also would like your thoughts on this question.

*How would you describe to someone who had never visited Dartmouth – such as a prospective applicant – what differentiates Dartmouth's sense of community, and its sense of place, and the role they play in the educational experience? Are there reflections from your own time on campus that you would share?*

Please send your responses to me by July 1 at [Rwolson68@gmail.com](mailto:Rwolson68@gmail.com). I will forward all responses on to the Alumni Liaison Committee, which will incorporate them into its report to the trustees.

I have focused this report on highlights from the meeting as I saw them. If you would like more, you can [read the full minutes](#) of the 210<sup>th</sup> Council Session.

Dick Olson '68

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