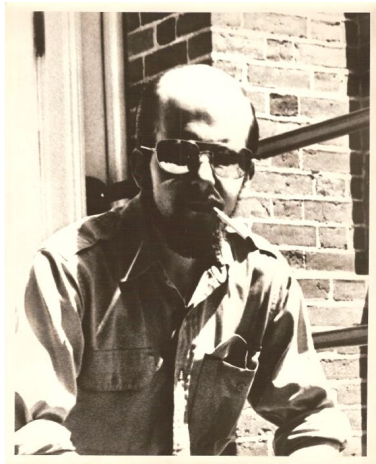


Kirby Nickels

From Kathy Nickels

Kirby came to Dartmouth from Washington, DC. He was an English major and especially enjoyed poetry classes with Richard Eberhardt. While at Dartmouth, he played drums in band, Barbary Coast, the Intruders and the Dartmouth Five. He was a member of the Camera Club and Phi Kappa Psi. He received the Grimes Poetry Award. Kirby followed his Dartmouth degree with a MFA in creative writing at Columbia University where he lived in International House. After Columbia, he worked for a publishing company in NYC before moving back to Hanover. He worked for a number of retail stores before joining the State of Vermont as an Employment Counselor. He played drums in a number of jazz ensembles and in the pit orchestra for several Hopkins Center performances. He also enjoyed photography, model railroading and golf. Kirby leaves his wife, daughter and two granddaughters whom he adored.



From Dave (Howie) Soren

Kirby was the sometimes drummer for Sphinx, our rock band at Dartmouth when he was not working other jobs. I knew him a good bit and he was a super quick study and a fantastic drummer who could really fake arrangements well for the shows we did with him.

He looked older than the rest of us so I thought he was. He didn't talk much, was pretty much all business when we did a show. He was in constant demand to be with various bands that needed top drummers and I used him after my drummer, the great David Seidman, was killed while mountain climbing. Wish I'd gotten to know him better but I can tell you he was a cool cat and super professional as a pickup drummer. He and Seidman were the best I worked with. At least Kirby got a retirement I hope. He was way cooler than I was. I've been trying to catch up ever since!!

I'm still teaching full time with 630 students this semester.

best wishes to all of you

David alias Howie Soren '68

From Peter Wonson

I didn't know Kirby well enough to write his obit, though we considered each other good friends. Don't know if either of you knew Kirb. He was a drummer, a damn good one, and played a variety of genres. I think maybe he played with the Barbary Coast, though not sure. I think I still have a photo of Kirby in my old computer, which I will try to locate, though it crashed in 2016 and I know I lost some of the files. Also, I note that there is nothing for reference in our 2008 40th Reunion Book.

Kirby was, in addition to being a class drummer, a really fine guy. He also was the first guy in our class, I am certain, to go bald. By our senior year Kirby was pretty much bald as a cue ball. He was a "hep cat" to use an out-of-date phrase. Kirby was our drummer for our little 2008 reunion band SWB under the tent on that thunderstorm evening. David, you will remember that -- you sang My Girl that night, as I recall, and sang on others we did.

Kirby and his wife Emily came to my book launch party in White River in August 2011, and even then Kirby was pretty frail and not 100% "with it." I know for sure I have a group photo of Dartmouth 68s (mostly) from that day and I'll send it along. As I recall, classmate Dave Fuchs (who played bass with SWB) and Kirby were good pals and used to play golf together, until it got to be too much for Kirby. I believe I am correct in saying that Kirby passed due to complications from Alzheimer's or another type of dementia.

Peter

The color '68 lineup at my book launch concert is from August 2011, and FYI right to left are: Wright; my brother Mitch '70; Walden; Marshall; Kirby; me; Calvert; Eric van Leuven '74; Gerry and Jackie Bell. There were at least three other spice that day who didn't make the photo, as well as classmates Peter Fahey and John Maxfield and Alan MacIntosh

