Hi ‘11s!

It’s been awhile, we’ve missed you! Recently, work has been a thing we do more often than Gchat… weird right?

For us, seeing the 13s graduate was a little surreal – the babies grow up so fast! June also marked the two year anniversary of the worst/best/scariest/saddest/happiest day ever. But if we’re two years out, does this mean it’s real world sophomore summer?? We sure hope so.

Speaking of two years out, this issue features your fellow classmates reflecting on their lives at the ‘two year’ mark and think about what might be different or same old, same old. We are in awe of all of the amazing things you are out there accomplishing! Many of you are going back to school, finishing school, changing jobs, and moving to new cities and countries!

We are trying out some new things in this issue, such as finding ways to feature YOU more (does change suck? You can be honest). We also want to extend a special thank you to our first non-’11 contributor, Professor Charles Wheelan - it’s been too long without any word from our Class Day speaker, and so if you’re hungering for more professorial advice, read on, you poor thing.

Please keep us updated on your exciting adventures; as always, we are looking forward to hearing from you!

Catie Burkhart, Emily Broas, and Neil Basu
Class of 2011 Newsletter Editors
dartmouthclass2011@gmail.com
Hanover Update
by Charles Wheelan ‘88

I am delighted that Neil, Emily and Catie asked me to contribute to the ’11 newsletter. I helped launch all of you into the “real world” on Class Day, so it’s fun to stay in touch. As some of you may know, the Wheelan Family is in Hanover full time now. It’s great to be teaching at Dartmouth four quarters out of the year, instead of just summers.

So what’s new with the College these days? I have no idea. Never in my roughly 30 years of Dartmouth affiliation has there been such a “wait and see” attitude. Phil Hanlon has just taken over as president, and he will have to tackle two vastly different challenges. The first is Dartmouth-centric. Students are still drinking too much! Okay, that’s not a shocker.

Still, the Rolling Stone article is still hanging out there. Then there are the protests from the spring. That situation, too, is largely unresolved—both the underlying challenges that spawned the protests (primarily sexual assault) and a lingering distaste over the nature of the protests themselves.

Because the whole campus has been awaiting the new president, these issues have been largely left to the new administration. I suspect there will be changes on the “campus life” front but so far President Hanlon has kept his cards close to the vest.

The second big wild card applies to all of higher education. The whole “industry” is going to have to change. The MOOCs (massive open online course) have made it possible to teach literally hundreds of thousands of students at once via the internet. Tuition at colleges everywhere is too high. Students are graduating (or dropping out) with enormous debts. I have no idea what awaits higher education, but I can promise two things: 1) Universities are going to function differently in ten years. 2) Phil Hanlon is spending a lot of time thinking about what this means for Dartmouth.

On a lighter note, my class—the Class of ’88—just held our 25th reunion. (And yes, we did set an all-time attendance record.) All of you have 23 years before you hit this impressive milestone. Based on that great weekend, here are five observations from the 25th that might inform your behavior as you plot the next 23 years on the road to this post-Dartmouth milestone:

1. It’s always awesome to get back to Hanover. As the 25th reunion class, we had our class dinner on Saturday night on the lawn of Baker. We were blessed with a warm, clear, near perfect night. You don’t have to be on campus long to recall the magic of the place.

2. The time doesn’t really go that fast. It’s been a long time since we graduated, and the conversations were a bit nostalgic. Our generation typed our papers in high school on typewriters. When we arrived at Dartmouth, the USSR was still intact. We listened to albums—like real albums, on turntables. So I urge you to do this thought exercise: What the heck is the world going to look like at your 25th? Seriously, think about it.

3. Our classmates end up doing cool things. Among my fellow ’88s, I counted a U.S. senator, a CEO of a major advertising agency, a Dartmouth trustee, lots of Silicon Valley success stories, and so on. But here is the cool thing: These people just don’t seem any different. There is something about knowing someone in college that creates a deeper and more knowing relationship than one formed later in life.

4. It’s always great to see your fellow freshman trippers. I really did not have much in common with my fellow trippers on our canoe trip. But they were—and always will be—the very first people I knew on campus. And there is just something about that that sticks with you.

5. Get into the hair replacement business. My classmates have none. The market has got to be huge.
TWO YEARS OUT
Now that we are two years outside of graduation, some ’11s check in on their thoughts, feelings and experiences.

Easier Said Than Done
by Alden Dilanni-Morton ’11

Our generation, as I’ve seen it, goes one of two ways. Either we’ve got a plan from age 5 to age 95, or we’re taking life one millisecond at a time.

Even before college, I had a very clear vision for myself. I would go to Dartmouth, major in Government, take my Foreign Service Exam and work for the diplomatic corps. It was a straight-forward plan with little potential to be completely thrown off. Of course, when I got to Dartmouth, I double-majored with Theatre and didn’t really study more Chinese language than what covered my language requirement. So maybe that should have been my first sign my life was taking itself off of the prescribed course.

Teach For China was something I had heard about junior year. It caught my interest, but I thought not much about it, still fairly certain that (in spite of myself) I was barreling toward my clearly lined out life goals. The summer before senior year was when I properly took stock of myself and realized I had absolutely not been setting myself up for success on the road I had thought I was taking. Could I get back on track and limp along after the other IR majors? Should I throw caution to the wind and scramble after the actors I knew to New York? Was it too late to just jump back to one of my earlier childhood dreams and enlist in the armed service?

A friend of mine was interviewing for Teach For America when I remembered TFC existed. It wasn’t what I had planned, but it was pulling together quite a few themes from my life which were fracturing my ability to see clearly: belief in the importance of education, desire to do ‘good work,’ interest in IR and a grounding in Mandarin. Going off to rural Yunnan for two years to teach English was nothing like my original game plan, but after soul-searching to force myself to let go of a plan which was no longer working, I got on the plane less than two weeks after graduating.

I will not say that these two years have been completely blissful. I will not say that I found my life calling in teaching 5th and 6th grade English and art in a single-road village. Being a teacher is not easy work, and my tiny village on the side of a mountain, for all I love it, is a far cry from anywhere I ever saw myself ending up. And yet, two years later, I’m writing this still sitting in rural China, having just begun my work of the next two years—operating as a Program Manager for TFC, and planning to get a Masters in International Education Policy and Management.

It’s not for me to say whether a plan or an instinctive jump is the better choice. I will say, however, that when I think of my fellow ’11s in all our various corners of the girdled earth we roam, it’s always with the fondest hope that each and every one of you is finding a way to make life work for you, even if it means taking that ridiculous jump out of your comfort zone.

SHOUTS & MURMURS
Some quick(er) updates from members of the Class of 2011!

DEVON ZIMMERLING ‘11
“I’ve just transferred with Cambridge Associates out to the London office and will be here for at least the next two years. I’m having lots of fun so far exploring new places, meeting new people, and hanging out with the other ’11s that are out here!”

KIMBERLY WATERS ‘11
“I recently graduated from a dual MA-MS program in International and World History from Columbia University and the London School of Economics. I have lived in London and traveled to Brazil and Paris over the past year. Next, I will start working as a Special Assistant to the Managing Director at Uncommon Schools for New York City.”
Two years ago on May 1, 2011, I was nearing the finish line for the last few classes of my bachelor’s degree. I was running daily rehearsals for SHEBA’s spring show, “SHEBA In Wonderland”. I saw all of my best friends every day, I was trying not to think about last time I walked down Tuck Drive or ordered a Billy Bob, and I was slowly coming to terms with my failure to complete the Dartmouth Seven.

Two years later on May 1, 2013, I was at sea for my 6th straight week, conducting oceanographic research in the South Atlantic for my PhD. I had been engaged to Nick Brown ’09 for four months, and I was missing my fiancé and our 10-month-old puppy terribly. My home was somehow in North Carolina of all places, I could no longer hold my liquor, and I was perpetually thinking about how to shape my PhD in marine sciences into the passionate, useful career I hope for.

To say my life has changed a lot in two years is an obvious understatement, and I think that’s probably true for all of us. It’s not just my conditions that have changed – my whole perspective is different. My mind is occupied with looking forward – planning a wedding, defending my Masters, looking into buying a house – things that two years ago I would have described as ‘real life’, but now just feel natural. I’ve entered a strange mid-20s territory (we’ve left early-20s behind, sorry folks) where I feel like I’m making real progress towards building something significant and substantial, but I also have no idea what it is. Everything I do feels weighted – there are stakes now. It can be paralyzing: I can’t get my blog started because maybe not every word I write is pure brilliance, I hesitate to commit to this or that side project because it might not be the perfect thing I’ll wish I had done in five years. But most of the time, I remember that the people I admired most at Dartmouth were kicking ass and taking names and getting shit done in time to need 2 at 10. I see my fellow Dartmouth classmates two years later accomplishing just, oh, everything, and I manage to be enthusiastic and productive.

Last year my fiancé and I left our life in Boston, where we both lived for a year, to move to North Carolina where I was starting graduate school. Moving from Boston – where you can’t help but run into a couple of people you knew at Dartmouth at the grocery store and there’s a Dartmouth alumni house party somewhere in the city pretty much any day of the week – to Chapel Hill – where I’m crossing my fingers maybe I’ll catch a glimpse of Carol Folt – was a complete removal from the Dartmouth safety net we’d enjoyed since graduation. I feel farther away from Dartmouth and from my friends, and I worry that with the physical distance we’ll grow apart. When Green Key 2013 rolled around, I decided to go not just because it’s magnificent and I wanna, but because I couldn’t help thinking it’s probably the last time me and all my best friends will be there at the same time.

Even so, after two years I don’t really think about Dartmouth that much anymore. When I do, my thoughts tend to be sweet and anecdotal – yes, Dartmouth mug, we do have the best college motto ever; yes, let’s do frame and hang our twin Dartmouth degrees in the office like a couple of jerks; hello Man In Harris Teeter, why thank you for noticing my awesome Dartmouth tank, no I do not know John Something ’15, but I really, seriously appreciate your asking. And as much as I worry about being separated from my friends, opportunities to see each other keep arising, and on those occasions our time together is that much more meaningful.

And I’m making new, equally wonderful memories in my new life – Nick proposing to me at sunrise by the lake near our house with our puppy in one hand and a ring in the other; my first academic paper being published; meeting new, amazing colleagues – or really, having people I can describe as ‘colleagues’ at all; taking over a bar in Brooklyn on New Years Eve with so many Dartmouth alums it could have been a basement in Hanover.

I don’t look back at Dartmouth as the best years of my life, even though it was an amazingly fun, exhilarating, riotous, unequaled and life-altering time that I will never experience again. Because precisely the things that made Dartmouth such a wonderful time at its core have carried over into my post-grad life. To me, my first years after graduation are jarringly new and different from my life at Dartmouth, but they’re still a continuation of that experience. All of my personal goals and motivations are tied to things I learned about myself while at Dartmouth, from my remarkable Dartmouth peers. Almost all of the people I love most are people that I met there. I still feel I can write a gushing essay about whatever I feel like and send it to all of you, and you’ll be supportive because we’re both part of the Dartmouth community. Two years out, you’re all still my Dartmouth family.

Seeing pictures of the ‘13s graduating made me...?

To the right, see how your fellow ‘11s, both positively and negatively, finished that sentence.

“...want to puke. I remember when they were prospies.”
“...buy a lot of age-defying makeup!”
“...succumb to a burgeoning fatalism.”
“...feel extremely sad and very proud at the same time.”
“...want to re-do senior week.”
“...glad I’m not obsessed with staring at Facebook photos.”
“...thrilled that they were joining me in the real world.”
“...feel inspired!” “...feel ambivalent” “...vom a little bit.”
Two years ago, I was in the frantic process of writing essays and applying to medical schools during my gap year. I wanted to be a doctor in order to help people beyond what I was ever able to do as an Emergency Medical Technician at home and at college. I had also always wanted to volunteer internationally (think “Doctors Without Borders” or one of the international strike teams). But after I started med school, I realized that outside of academic work, there was very little time to actually help others. Days were instead filled with never-ending study blocks and more rote memorization than I can even begin to describe.

The summer break between first and second year is popularly known as a doctor’s last summer ever. Ready to unearth myself from burying myself in books and flashcards. But I do want to take more trips in future, probably at a time when I’d be more capable of helping others and delivering care.

As we went around providing care, each village typically closed down the school to give us rooms to work in (the kids loved that). Each provider would set up an area according to their specialty and the medical students and other volunteers would be split up evenly among them. We had family medicine, pediatrics, dermatology, pain management, podiatry, diagnostic testing and pharmacy sections set up. Patients would be directed to the best section to address their chief complaint, the medical student(s) would get a history and do a physical exam of the patient in charge of the area, and discuss what needed to be done. Once the prescription was written out, the patients were given instructions and directed to the pharmacy.

The main challenges for the care we provided were the conditions and isolation that we worked in. The first village we went to was so isolated that we traveled on paved highways for one and a half hours and then on dirt roads for another 45 minutes. The dirt road took us through four rivers (notice how I said “through” and not “over”). The culture shock that I should never take a well-paved road for granted was replaced eventually by the knowledge that some people would not be adequately restored based simply on how difficult it was to travel. For instance, we encountered an infection that was visibly traveling up the lymph nodes within a patient’s leg. While we had antibiotics to treat for infections, this particular one required patient hospitalization (in the US, this person would have been instantly admitted to an ER). Unfortunately, the best that we could do was to impress upon the mayor the importance of getting the patient to the hospital – the mayor was likely the only person who would be able to get her there.

Many more problems that patients had were relatively easy to handle, and sometimes only required educating the patient on lifestyle changes – one of my patients with high blood sugar was told he needed to cut back on the soda. In fact, one of the more common ailments was headache, even for the kids. Patients suffering from headaches were usually educated on healthy living and given multivitamins for malnutrition. Incidentally, malnutrition was a big issue. The pediatric physician assistant commented that she had to remember that it was normal for Guatemalan children to look tiny compared to American children.

Two years after first applying to med school, I finally had the international practical experience that I wanted. What I am being taught in medical school is preparing me for working in a hospital, not the rural parts of Guatemala – this trip opened my eyes to how medical care is delivered to third world countries. It pained me to leave people that we weren’t able to help, their futures now uncertain. But on a personal note, I am glad for the practical experience I gained (the ability to take care of actual patients, and, incidentally, some basic ‘medical Spanish’). For now, I am preparing to return to medical school and bury myself in books and flashcards. But I do want to take more trips in future, probably at a time when I’d be more capable of helping others and delivering care.
**Reflections on a Career in Big Tech**

by Charles “Tony” Quincy ’11

Even two years ago, I would have failed miserably if you had asked me to correctly predict what I would be doing today. I probably would have talked about taking the GMAT, courting business schools, or maybe even going into plastics.

Instead, I’ve gone down a very different path. I work in technology – something that is in and of itself an unanticipated turn, considering that I was a history major. I submitted my resume to IBM after a particularly challenging few weeks at my previous employer. I was luckily granted an interview – although I was at my previous employer. I was luckily granted an interview – although I was quickly informed that I only had six hours to accept the interview slot and had to be willing to re-locate to New York City. After quickly consulting with my girlfriend, family and college mentors, I both accepted the interview and subsequently the job. This decision, based on sound counsel, prior planning and a spontaneous willingness to trust my intuition, was an inflection point that fundamentally changed both my career and life course. Today, I am responsible for IBM’s book of business for mobile technologies and services in the Great Lakes and Northeast Business Units.

Since graduation, I have learned that there are two fundamentally important things. First, you must constantly assess what you want to accomplish. Second, you must surround yourself with a network of supportive, but challenging people.

It is important to constantly assess and reassess what you want to accomplish and what responsibilities you want to take on. Without such a plan – albeit a constantly evolving one – you cannot make long-term strategic decisions with potentially huge impacts. For example, I would have never even applied to IBM if I had not thought about what sort of role I wanted to take on. More recently, I would have not accepted the more uncertain position in IBM’s MobileFirst group had I not thought about what technologies had large future growth potential. If you do not execute against your plan, you are going nowhere.

I have also learned to appreciate the importance of having a great network, both professional and personal, of people surrounding me. I have been very fortunate to have a core of mentors at IBM who have helped me to accomplish a great many things over the last year. They have proved to be an invaluable sounding board for my hare-brained plans that may push the envelope a little too much. Yet, I have also realized how important it is to surround yourself with a supportive, but challenging personal network. By doing so, everyday events like coming back to my apartment, or going out for drinks are opportunities to change my world view and widen my perspective of the choices I am confronted with.

With these lessons in mind, I am looking forward to what the next two years will bring - I am sure it will be different from what I anticipate now.

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**Life After Dartmouth, Part II**

by Alex Gonzalez ’11

On a chilly spring evening earlier this year, I attended a YADA networking event being held a few blocks from my apartment in Boston. While talking with many of my fellow classmates, I noticed that there was a common theme in the conversations that I was having: people were ready to try something new.

Like many of my fellow ’11s, I was ready for a new challenge and, shortly after that networking event, I packed up my apartment, resigned from my job, and moved down to Miami, Florida. Once back in Miami, I finished up my job hunt (note: searching for a job on the other side of the country is tough!) and focused on starting anew for the first time since graduation.

The decision to leave Boston was difficult, especially since I left behind some great friends. While I do miss being able to walk everywhere, going to Red Sox games, and just enjoying the incredible New England summer, I couldn’t be happier with my choice to start fresh. Moving gave me the opportunity to connect with new people and learn from an entirely new industry in a fun and challenging capacity.

It took about a month before I could start at my new job, so I decided to make the best of my temporary “fumemployment.” Recognizing that new employees shouldn’t be taking vacation time within their first few months, I booked a spontaneous trip to Alaska. (My family was speechless when I told them that I was going to Alaska “tomorrow.”) There I had the chance to hike, see some incredible animals, and meet a bunch of new people from around the world. Once back home, I worked closely with my brother to launch phase two of a social news-sharing site called HearItFrom.com that he and I have been developing for about a year. I also got involved with the Dartmouth Club of South Florida to meet new alums and help continue the club’s growth.

My life is very different today than it was two months ago, but I have thoroughly enjoyed the transition. I have explored new places and ideas in what has been one of the most fun challenges that I’ve experienced since graduating. For those of you considering making a change in your lives, I would say, “Go for it!”
Two years out, I am still very much trying to figure out what makes me happy and also pays the bills. I quit my job at GE Capital in June after realizing that finance wasn’t for me. I then got to spend a month being a camp counselor at Seeds of Peace, a month that was way too fun and went way too fast. I was program director at camp, overseeing the daily schedule and many other logistics that went into running a 3.5 week camp for 212 campers from 8 different countries. This year was particularly difficult because as Ramadan shifts 2 weeks earlier every year, we were faced with a week when half of the camp was fasting from sunrise to sunset. It was great to be back at camp though, especially with 3 other Dartmouth kids on staff and 1 Dartmouth camp doctor!

I am now back in NYC and working on a travel website that I hope to launch in the coming months that aggregates professional tour packages. Basically, there are hundreds of tour companies offering packaged trips like Tanzanian safaris, bike trips through Tuscany, and Galapagos cruises, but there really is not a good place online to view them all together, the same way you would for flights on Kayak or hotels on Hotwire. That is what I am working on. It is really scary and hard, but also very exciting. I would love to hear any thoughts and ideas from my classmates.

What is your go-to news source?
In the summer survey, here’s what Dartmouth ’11s had to say about the places they go to get their information.

Thinking about your expectations in June 2011 versus now, would you say you are...?

To the right, see how your fellow ’11s seem to feel two years out.
SPOTLIGHT ON: DOC Trips Section I

Four members of DOC Trips section I answer a few questions for us.

DREW JOSEPH ‘11
In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.
San Antonio Express-News reporter; sweating in the Texas heat.
What is your first memory from your DOC trip?
I don’t have any really specific memories from the first day/night of Trips (although of course I remember arriving on the Robo lawn, the HCroo show and sleeping in Leverone) but a very clear memory is from the first night we were out sleeping under the tarps. Our trip got raided and when I woke up amid all the noise, I kind of forgot where I was. So my reaction was to scream, which considering we were all packed under a tarp, meant I was screaming directly in the face of the person next to me. Luckily enough, he apparently got over the fact that I screamed in his face - we became good friends and lived together sophomore summer.
What’s the most surprising life lesson you’ve learned since graduating?
Trying to scrounge up quarters for the washing machine/dryer is harder than I could have ever imagined.
Write a haiku to the incoming class of 2017.
DDS workers
See you at your very worst
Be sure to be nice

CHRIS PARKER ‘11
In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.
Living the American Dream in the nation’s capital.
What is your first memory from your DOC trip?
Being pleasantly surprised at how a game of Wah can entertain groups of strangers for hours on end.
What’s the most surprising life lesson you’ve learned since graduating?
There are two rules for success:
1) Never reveal everything that you know...
Write a haiku to the incoming class of 2017.
No.

MAYUKA KOWAGUCHI ‘11
In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.
Strategy consulting in Tokyo, while rediscovering what being Japanese means.
What is your first memory from your DOC trip?
Doing the salty dog rag with Stefan Uddenberg ‘11, who remains a close friend to this day.
What’s the most surprising life lesson you’ve learned since graduating?
Most will fall prey to the magnetic draw of the status quo, stronger and more tempting after graduation. If you choose to challenge it, you’ll find company in the friends you’ve made at Dartmouth.
Write a haiku to the incoming class of 2017.
You’ll have, with Dartmouth,
A love-hate relationship—
But that’s why it’s “home”

JOSEPH COLEMAN ‘11
In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.
In Boston, learning how to explain what management consulting is.
What is your first memory from your DOC trip?
Meeting Chris Parker.
What’s the most surprising life lesson you’ve learned since graduating?
It’s not always easy.
Write a haiku to the incoming class of 2017.
Are you shaving yet?
Oh the places you will go
Respect your elders
Survey Says: ’11s Favorite Apps

**Audible:** How else would I listen to *Game of Thrones* for the 12th time?

**Carrot:** An interactive to-do list that sends me hateful messages when I don’t complete it. No other reminder app has been so mean or so effective at getting me to stop procrastinating.

**Dragonvale:** Seriously. Whose day is not made better by hatching a new adorable baby dragon?

**Duolingo:** Remember how you took a language and then forgot it all and now you need to remember it? This is free and awesome as a language refresher.

**Feedly:** A news aggregator app. Super easy to grab headlines, breeze through articles, save for later, and bookmark.

**Shazam:** Because when you spend 15 hours driving from New England to Indiana, you’re bound to hear some great folk songs on the radio that you’ve never heard before.

**Tinder:** A great place to find girls who like turtles!

**Venmo:** Because you gotta figure out how to split money for all the cab rides and real beer now that dues don’t exist.

**Viber:** Every time I went abroad, I never knew about this app and paid almost $4000 in phone bills. This is free calling and texting!

**Wunderlist:** It’s the best to-do app (cool backgrounds, syncs with computer, is available for iPhone and Android). Add “downloading Wunderlist” to your to-do list!

**???:** What? I live in the woods. I use my phone to text, call, calculate, and read Facebook to wake up in the morning.

Along with 5,500 riders, Dan Hochman, Mike Lewis and I (pictured left) just completed the Pan-Mass Challenge, a 2-day bike ride in eastern Massachusetts to raise money for the Dana-Farber Cancer Center. It’s the largest single fundraising event in the country, and is targeting $38 million for 2013. And many members of the Dartmouth community are committed to the cause: no water stop or lunch break was complete without running into a familiar face from Hanover, or recognizing the Dan & Whit’s logo on the jerseys of the Tuck team. Also on the ride were our fellow ’11s Mike Bush and Liz Palmer, as part of their company team, who completed the 190-mile trek for the second year in a row. We hope to see even more ’11s and Dartmouth faces on the ride next year!

-Emily Broas ’11
COLLEGE FUND UPDATE

Over the past year, the Class of 2011 set a record. We raised:

$34,810

through the Dartmouth College Fund - more than any previous class in its second year after graduation. Across all classes this year, the Dartmouth College Fund raised a record $46.5 million in new gifts from 44.5% of all undergraduate alumni, and a record $51.9 million when including annual gifts from endowed funds.

These gifts will help make Dartmouth a stronger and more enduring institution for generations of students to come. A reflection of the profound loyalty of our alumni, the Fund will provide nearly 10% of Dartmouth's total funding this year, with the largest share going directly to financial aid.

As recent graduates, we could not be more pleased that 45.6% of our class made a gift this year, and more than one-third of us are members of The Harold C. Ripley '29 Society for alumni who have given every year since graduation. The formidable collective effort of the Class of 2011 has also won us the Fred A. Howland 1887 Award for the greatest increase in the number of donors (45) for classes in a non-reunion year.