Hi ‘11s!

We hope you all are surviving the various polar vortices that have been thrown our way this winter (and to all of you out there in California, we get it, your life rocks). It seems that 2014 will be a year of transition for many of us, whether graduating from grad school, beginning grad school, changing jobs, changing cities, getting married...one thing is for sure, you all are out there doing some pretty incredible things! Believe it, and carry on.

In this issue, you will find updates from many peers, survey results from our latest survey and a special letter from President Hanlon himself! This issue we tried to focus on what many of you are up to outside of work (real world extracurriculars, if you will). And wow, you are some busy people! Perhaps most exciting though, (no offense to our dear President Hanlon) are all of the PETS(!!!) featured in this issue. It is hard to believe (but also wonderful and reassuring) to learn that some of us are actually mature and responsible enough to take care of animals. Check them out, they’re pretty darn cute!

As always, we are looking forward to hearing from you, so keep letting us know what you’re up to!

Catie Burkhard, Emily Broas, and Neil Basu
Class of 2011 Newsletter Editors
dartmouthclass2011@gmail.com
Updates from Your Classmates

ERIN MURRAY ‘11

Erin Murray got engaged to John Manning ’08 in Italy just before Christmas. Erin is working with a UN agency in Rome through the spring, and John is finishing medical school at the University of Washington. They are planning to wed in her home state of Wyoming.

JONATHAN CHOI ‘11

On December 20 and 23, 2013, Jon Choi was a contestant on Jeopardy! He won his first game, but got trounced the second day by a brilliant IRS actuary—the game was taped during the furlough, which Jon insists gave the IRS employee extra time to prepare. Highlights included seeing Ken Jennings, getting home improvement tips from Alex Trebek, running into the studio audience from the Queen Latifah Show, and getting recognized by a stranger on the street after his episode aired.

Pets of 2011

Throughout this issue, let these pets of the Class of 2011 warm your cold heart.

Name: Pluto (friend of Jessica Stein ‘11)
Aliases: Snoopsicle, Pup Snucks MD, Shitwolf.
Fun Fact: He's in dog jail right now for barking too loud and too often. He does crazy whirling dervish circles if a door opens. He sleeps in the bed with his head on the pillow like a person, and his favorite delicacy is cat poop.
Letter from the President

We asked President Hanlon to write our “Hanover Update” for the Fall 2013 newsletter, but his submission came after we had already published the issue. We hope you enjoy!

While the kaleidoscope of fall foliage we are blessed with in the Upper Valley hints at the passing of another year into winter, on campus it’s a time of new beginnings. It is the beginning of my tenure as Dartmouth’s president, and more importantly, it is the beginning of the fall term for a new class of first years, the ’17s.

Just as your class tread the time-worn paths of the Green cautiously at first, uncertain of what the future would hold for you at Dartmouth, so the ’17s begin their journey. When I met with the class just after their move-in day, I told them to relax, that many generations of alumni before them felt the same mix of emotions, and we all left this place four years later feeling as if Dartmouth was our second home. So many things will bind them together—shared academic challenges, outings into the New England countryside, and cold walks to class together on early February mornings. It has been true for every generation that walked these paths and it will be true for the ’17s—you may travel far and wide after graduation, but a part of you will always remain at Dartmouth.

More than simply encouraging them to begin building those memories, I challenged the Class of ’17 to embrace something I also spoke about in my inaugural address, and that is the power of experiential learning—the power of learning by doing. You likely took one or more classes during your time at Dartmouth where you were asked to work on real world problems, and we must grow this aspect of our curriculum. This is a priority for me as president, and a goal I believe will benefit our students and the world into which we send them.

For example, our Rockefeller Center for Public Policy has been leading the way towards experiential learning with its Policy Research Shop, where students provide research and testimony to legislators in Vermont and New Hampshire. Thanks to this program, Dartmouth students have the opportunity to understand their role in the policymaking process, and apply skills from the classroom to the world beyond. And this is just one avenue of learning beyond the classroom.

As the world and workplace change, becoming more diverse, competitive and dynamic than ever before, it is increasingly about what our graduates can do, not just what they know. So I have asked our faculty to explore the power of experiential learning both in the classroom and out of it, allowing students to apply theory toward practical, real world problems, in a drive to create new knowledge and forge ahead into new frontiers of learning and scholarship. By growing our experiential learning curriculum and our scholarly work into areas where they will have an impact for the good, we will always ensure Dartmouth remains at the very forefront of teaching and learning, and provides an undergraduate education second to none.

There is no set curriculum for experiential learning; indeed, we must create it ourselves. And therein lies the challenge for our faculty, of which I am proud to call myself a member: we must work to incorporate the latest technologically advanced teaching methods to engage our students in ways we have not engaged them before, because for each new class that comes to campus, the challenges they will face upon graduation are vastly different. Yet while change is ever present, the most important meta-lesson Dartmouth can teach is one that will last a lifetime: that deep thinking and the intellect are the most potent tools we have in dealing with the complex challenges of the world.

Fully exploring the potential unleashed by experiential learning is just one of the many challenges I want to see Dartmouth pursue during my tenure as president. Indeed, there are many ahead, but I am encouraged and excited by the prospect that I may pursue these challenges for a place so dear to my heart. And I know that as a member of the Class of 2011, though just beginning your journey beyond Dartmouth, you feel that same sense of stewardship. We walked the time-worn paths of the Green and made our special memories, and now is our chance to ensure a new generation of students has an experience every bit as special and lasting as our own.

There could be no greater challenge than this, and I look forward to working with you in order to meet it.

Sincerely,

Philip J. Hanlon,
President
At the beginning of last year, I made the slightly questionable decision to run a half-marathon. I had never run more than 4 miles in my life and was a total nonner. I trained diligently, running after work during the week in lower Manhattan and around Central Park on the weekend. I did my first double-digit mileage run about a month before the race and could barely walk for days.

And then, about two weeks before the race, I was drunkenly coerced by a family friend to join her NYC Marathon fundraising team for the school she had founded for integrated learning for kids with special needs. We both figured, hey, if I could run a half, what was another 13.1? Not the most sane decision I've ever made.

This exchange, and the half-marathon, took place in June. I was joined by the lovely Becky Waite ('12), who was a much better sport and sportsman, than I. I somehow convinced her to join on the marathon bandwagon too. There were many Saturday night text exchanges that went something like this: “whatcha doin?” “staying in - I have to do 18 tomorrow.” “yeah, I’m up to 17...ugh. Movie and carbs?” “yeah... or just sleep?” “yeah...”

Though I sort of fell off the map for a few months (sorry friends), I wouldn’t trade the experience I had on race day for anything in the world. Becky and I arrived at the Staten Island Ferry bright and early, huddled together in the runners’ village to battle the cold, stashed Clif and Power Bars in our gloves, sweatshirts, headbands, etc... and then started the crazy journey from the Verrazano Narrows in Staten Island to Central Park. Perhaps most significant for me was experiencing a race that I had watched from my childhood home from the street, as opposed to from my room. And having Dartmouth friends on the sidelines (and at one point, even in the race with us!) and at the finish line, along with my family, was additional fuel that kept Becky and I going strong throughout the race. I probably wouldn’t have survived the brutal training regimen if these friends hadn’t supported me the whole time, by joining me on training runs, recommending that I listen to “This American Life” to keep myself entertained on the long Sundays, and reminding me of all of the run we’d have when I was done.

And the end of the proverbial day/literal race, it was all totally worth it. And my knees still hurt.
I am currently in a rotational leadership development program with Eaton, a diversified power management company. I began my second rotation in Milwaukee last June, and I am now serving on Eaton’s local Community Involvement Council (CIC) which focuses on building employee engagement and promoting volunteerism. I am responsible for planning events and activities for employees and recruiting volunteers for those activities.

The council supports a variety of programs in the greater Milwaukee area through active employee involvement and financial support. I am personally involved with a variety of programs focused on early education and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) activities. Some of my favorite roles have been serving as a mentor for a FIRST Robotics team, judging various STEM compositions, and volunteering with organizations like Junior Achievement or Project Lead the Way.

One program I feel strongly about is mentoring at a local middle school for their Future City team and Lego Robotics teams. I visit the school once a week to spend the afternoon working with the students to build robots or practice presentations. The kids are incredibly energetic, and one of the biggest challenges is to get them to focus and think about the engineering problem. Most of the time, the kids can come up with a solution once they’ve approached a challenge one step at a time.

It has been a rewarding experience for me to watch the team struggle with a problem and to help guide them to a solution. For many of the kids, this is their first experience with programming and robotics. Most of the coaching I do is around teaching general engineering design principles or helping the team with project planning, but I have the most fun when I can help them with a technical challenge. I enjoy helping the team debug a program to understand why their robot isn’t working correctly or with brainstorming futuristic solutions using the latest technologies. I hope these programs inspire the kids to continue exploring science and engineering.

Recently, the Future City team I was mentoring came in second place for the Wisconsin state competition. I was proud as I watched the kids present a model of the city they designed to a crowd of hundreds of parents, peers, and judges. I was impressed with the ingenuity and creativity that my team demonstrated. The goal of the competition was eliminating non-sustainable power generation, and the kids came up with the idea of using piezoelectric roads to generate power from pedestrians. I will miss working with this team of talented middle school students. Spending all evening with kids was exhausting after a long day of work, but the experience was definitely worth the effort.
When I was approached with the task of writing about my hobbies and extracurricular activities in my post-graduate life, I laughed a little. I also texted a good friend of mine something along the lines of “LOL HOBBIES, WHAT. I SLEEP AND CRY.” This was followed by brief but in depth analysis of my own life, as well as looking up the word “hobby” to remind myself what it meant. This was because I hadn’t really ever thought about what my hobbies were or if I even have them. I had always considered hobbies to be something limited to those blessed (privileged) with money and time, something virtually non-existent for me. The fact that I was expected to write about things I did for leisure with time and money—thus expected to have time and money—upset me. The expectation isn’t a bizarre one; we are Dartmouth alumni; presumably successful in everything we do, evidenced by publications of our grand business ventures and travels in newsletters such as this one. However, I don’t travel. I don’t pay for yoga classes. I can’t afford arts and crafts materials, and I certainly don’t have the time or energy to do anything besides sleep.

I go to the gym, but only because I work there, too.

Now entering the third year of post-graduation life, my alienation from the Dartmouth community seems more present than ever. For the first one and a half years, I worked three to four jobs, and worked every day of the week. During my most difficult period, I spent seven months without ever having a weekend. I would get home from one job at 4AM to have to be at another at 9AM that same day. With a schedule like this, sleep becomes a fleeting and priceless commodity fitting right within my budget. It was certainly difficult, but it wasn’t something that I ever considered abnormal or shameful. I’ve been working to pay for groceries since middle school. I have rent, medical payments, loans on top of those groceries today. I made a choice to work in service, well aware that it’s a career path that can’t often make ends meet on its own. Without parents and friends who can help me financially, I’ve consistently taken on multiple jobs, foregone fun, eaten cans of tuna for dinner, and slept (a lot. And for free.)
Volunteering as a wish granter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation is one of the best volunteer positions around. The spirit of each child fighting for his or her life is inspiring and uplifting and challenges you to rise above whatever you are facing in your own life. I encourage any and all to apply. You will get more than you give, I promise you.

Joining Meetup.com has been a great way to meet new people in a new city. I've gone to happy hours, concerts/performances, dinner, etc., and I've always met some great people. I play tennis through Meet-Up (you never have to worry about finding someone to play with!), and I even met my boyfriend through a Meet-Up event. Meetup.com is an awesome resource for social events in any major city! Med school can actually be pretty alienating, but I've made a lot of friends through the Christian Medical Dental Association and have learned more about Christianity through it too.

I was a College Republican at Dartmouth. So when I joined the "real world" and wanted to meet other like-minded folks, it felt natural to become a Young Republican. I've had a blast getting to travel and meet government officials and future leaders across my home state and the country, some of whom are also Dartmouth alumni. I may not have been a government or economics major, and my current job has nothing to do with government, but I enjoy continuing to play a role in politics the way I did at dear old Dartmouth.

I love my meditation teacher and am actually learning to teach so I can teach my own classes for some extra money. I get paid to relax, what could be better? But, the de-stress techniques are great. They help in every aspect of my life - to just keep things in perspective.

Looking to run a marathon in 2014. Also registered for 2 half marathons, an 8k and a 5k.

Making my own work is very rewarding for myself. However, I am also freelancing as an art handler at the Guggenheim museum, which pays the bills.

Teaching ESL to immigrants every Sunday. They don't take a minute of class for granted - I wish I'd had that same perspective while I was a student. Sounds cliche, but I think my students teach me just as much as I teach them!

Dance class has allowed/forced me to establish a work-life balance since I had to create time to make it for classes during the week.

I've led a Christian fellowship for one year since graduating, and the experience was very awarding. I got to hear about many people's experiences in their faith and struggles in life. It is very humbling to know people trust me enough to share those struggles and allow me to pray with and for them. In a year, I have seen growth and maturity in myself and in friends that spans beyond religion.

Started a rec hockey team with a bunch of other Dartmouth guys in the DC area.

I maintained a fairly regular travel blog for the first two years after graduating. Now, I'm a full-time freelance translator (Japanese -> English).

Continuing to work at TFC in my new position has been absolutely fascinating. It's exciting working not just with students who need support and attention but whole systems of teachers who need to be pushed to keep growing for those students.

NaNoWrimo (national novel writing month): 50,000 words in the month of November. It was pretty awesome getting that much closer to having a manuscript. It's been a long time coming!
**SPOTLIGHT ON:** Rocky First Year Fellows

Five Rocky First Year Fellows check in with us on a few matters. (See page 9 for more!)

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**ALEX MAHLER-HAUG ’11**

In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.

I work in the think-tank at the Council on Foreign Relations.

**What is your favorite Winter Carnival memory?**

The figure skating team didn’t have a competition during Winter Carnival senior year, so I was finally able to attend! And I’m still awestruck by the polar bear swim.

**What’s your best trick for surviving winter in the real world?**

The ‘sleeping bag coat’ I bought when I got into Dartmouth is still the best way to stay warm in the winters.

**Winter Olympics! Team USA curling, all the way.**

**Write a haiku about Hanover’s first snowball fight.**

Happened too early;
Snow before Thanksgiving is just really too much.

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**ZACH STOLZENBERG ’11**

In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.

Living in Atlanta, working for AT&T Corporate, Golfing a lot.

**What is your favorite Winter Carnival memory?**

**Snow sculptures**

What’s your best trick for surviving winter in the real world?

**Wearing sweaters to work.**

What are you most looking forward to in 2014?

**Traveling around the South, especially when the weather gets nice.**

**Write a haiku about Hanover’s first snowball fight.**

Meeting on the Green,
Excitement is all around,
Snow has come at last.

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**CHARLIE GRANT ’11**

In no more than 10 words, tell us what you’re up to these days.

Developing a utility-scale solar farm in Vermont with my Dad.

**What is your favorite Winter Carnival memory?**

**Polar bear swim, rugby meetings, building a snow sculpture in front of AD.**

What’s your best trick for surviving winter in the real world?

**Hot Toddy, works better than Dayquil.**

What are you most looking forward to in 2014?

**My cousin is getting married in Austria this summer, hoping I can make it out there for the wedding.**

**Write a haiku about Hanover’s first snowball fight.**

Hooray let’s throw snow!
That escalated quickly.
Foco is closed, sir.

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**Pets of 2011**

**Name:** Bagel (friend of Alden Dilanni-Morton ’11)

**Fun Fact:** Bagel is growing up in Baoshan, Yunnan, bilingual in English and普通话 in an apartment where they’re used interchangeably.

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**Name:** Eliot (friend of Sarah Clark ’11)

**Fun Fact:** He is from Brazil!
After graduation, I worked as an intern in the studio art department for one year, which was beyond incredible – getting to know my professors on a more personal level and having the time to seriously dive into my studio work were the two biggest gifts from that time. After this post-grad year, I completed an independent painting atelier at the New York Studio School, which definitely tested my endurance, resilience, and resolve. It was after these two experiences that I decided to take the leap and pursue my art professionally, and I’ve never looked back. I figured, if I didn’t do it now (with every cell and impulse in my body and soul urging me to do so) I would definitely regret it later on, and that idea was scarier than just going for it! Since then, I have embraced a nomadic lifestyle, travelling, researching, and painting in Australia, Poland, Spain, Austria, California, Massachusetts, and now New York. I currently live in Brooklyn, NY, working out of my studio and soaking up all Brooklyn has to offer. If you want to check out my work, my art is represented by Birnam Wood Gallery in NYC and East Hampton. Or check out my website: www.nataliawrobel.com. I’d love to hear your feedback. I am grateful to be able to pursue this dream and am looking forward to what’s to come! Cheers!

-Natalia Wrobel ’11
Pets of 2011

Name: MeiMei (friend of Rory Grant ‘11)
Fun Fact: From some angles, she looks like an unwrapped Chipotle burrito.

Name: Summer (friend of Alison Stace-Naughton ‘11)
Fun Fact: She loves warm laundry!

Name: Kolya (friend of Jill Tetirick ‘11)
Fun Fact: He likes to show off and puff out his gills when I have friends over.

Name: Yuri (friend of Lexi Heywood ‘11)
Fun Fact: He’s named for Yuri Gagarin (the first man in space).

Name: Philly (friend of Marjorie Chelius ‘11)
Fun Fact: She grew up on the streets her first six months and has the missing ear tops to prove it!

Names: Graham (L) and Maple (R) (friends of Colleen Mita ‘11)
Fun Fact: Maple only has 4 teeth (one of which is a fabulous snaggletooth) and Graham’s favorite spot is under the covers. He’ll basically try to curl up underneath anything, blankets, sheets, towels, pillows...