



## **25<sup>th</sup> Reunion Address on Baker Lawn**

**by Geoff Berlin '84, Reunion Co-Chair**

**June 20, 2009**

### **Reunion Team Awards**

HEY '84s! ARE YOU FEELING LUCKY TONIGHT?

YOU DIDN'T WANT TO PLAY IT SAFE AND GO INSIDE. YOU SAID, "THIS IS OUR ONE CHANCE TO BE ON BAKER LAWN. LET'S DO IT." SO DESPITE THE LOOMING CLOUDS AND THE OMINOUS WEATHER FORECASTS, WE ROLLED OUR DICE AND HERE WE ARE, RIGHT OUT ON BAKER LAWN! (APPLAUSE)

FIRST AND FOREMOST, I'D LIKE TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ROBERT WHITE, OUR OUTGOING CLASS PRESIDENT AND MY PARTNER AS CO-CHAIR OF OUR 25<sup>TH</sup>. WHEN I TOLD THE COLLEGE THAT ROBERT WAS GOING TO CO-CHAIR THE 25<sup>TH</sup>, THEY SAID, "THE CLASS PRESIDENT USUALLY DOESN'T SERVE AS CO-CHAIR," AND I SAID, "THIS ONE DOES"! ROBERT'S A DIVING INSTRUCTOR, AND TO START OUR REUNION PLANNING, WE MADE A FEW DIVES, AND IT SEEMS TO BE JUST NOW THAT WE'RE COMING UP FOR AIR! ROBERT, THANK YOU FOR YOUR INSPIRATION, FOR YOUR LOYALTY TO DARTMOUTH AND FOR YOUR FRIENDSHIP. (APPLAUSE)

WELL, HERE WE ARE! TELL ME, WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THOSE HILL WIND COCKTAILS LAST NIGHT, AND TONIGHT'S HILL WIND CHAMPAGNE? LET'S HAVE A HAND FOR STEVE DAY, OUR DINING CHAIR! (APPLAUSE)

AND WHAT ABOUT TED VON HIPPEL, AND ALL THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE '84 SYMPOSIA, AND COLA PARKER, OUR ENTERTAINMENT CHAIR?  
(APPLAUSE)

THEN THERE'S SUSAN SCHOENBERGER, WHO ORGANIZED THE '84 AUTHOR'S READING IN SANBORN, AND TOM RIVARD, WHO PULLED TOGETHER THE GALLERY EXHIBIT WITH '84 ARTISTS. (APPLAUSE)

AND WHAT ABOUT ANNE ARQUIT NIEDERBERGER, LESLIE GREENWALD AND JIM COLLINS, WHO PULLED TOGETHER OUR GREAT REUNION BOOK. (APPLAUSE)

OF COURSE, THE LIST GOES ON. YES, OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY '84s, FOR '84s. WOULD THE WHOLE REUNION TEAM PLEASE STAND, AND LET'S GIVE THEM A BIG ROUND OF APPLAUSE. (APPLAUSE)

NOW, BEFORE I GET ON WITH MY REMARKS AS REUNION CO-CHAIR, WE'RE GOING TO BRIEFLY RECREATE THE COMMENCEMENT EXPERIENCE RIGHT HERE ON BAKER LAWN. FOR THOSE WHO BROUGHT OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> TO LIFE, WE'RE GOING TO PRESENT YOU WITH A DIPLOMA OF SORTS – IN THE FORM OF A LIMITED-SERIES ETCHING OF OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION LOGO, DESIGNED BY TOM RIVARD AND PRODUCED BY AN ARTIST IN KIEV.

TOM'S GOING TO READ OUT THE NAMES OF THE THOSE '84s WHO WERE ON THE REUNION TEAM OR THE REUNION GIVING TEAM, WHO HAVE PARTICIPATED DIRECTLY IN REUNION EVENTS, AND WHO MADE CALLS, AND THEN MORE CALLS, TO RALLY AT LEAST HALF OF THEIR AFFINITY GROUPS TO COME TO REUNION.

WHEN TOM CALLS YOUR NAME, PLEASE COME FORTH TO RECEIVE YOUR '84 ETCHING FROM ROBERT OR ME. THIS WILL TAKE ABOUT 10 MINUTES, AND DURING THAT TIME, WE'RE GOING TO SERENADE YOU WITH BAKER'S BELLS. TOM...

*Tom calls out names of 120 classmates, while Baker's Bells play 'The Salty Dog Rag'.]*

## Reunion Address

[Following presentation of award to Geoff Berlin by Robert White.... Applause.]

THANK YOU. THANK YOU.

YOU KNOW, JOHN KEMENY [DARTMOUTH PRESIDENT, 1970-81], WHEN HE FINISHED HIS CLASSES, HE USED TO ASK HIS STUDENTS NOT TO APPLAUD. HE WOULD SAY HE DIDN'T KNOW WHETHER THEY WERE APPLAUDING BECAUSE THEY LIKED THE CLASS, OR BECAUSE IT WAS OVER. WELL, I CAN TELL YOU THERE ARE TWO PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE APPLAUDING BECAUSE REUNION IS ALMOST OVER!

THE FIRST IS MIKE SALZHAUER, OUR REUNION TREASURER, WHO WORKED BEHIND THE SCENES TO KEEP OUR REUNION BOAT ON A STRAIGHT AND STEADY COURSE. (APPLAUSE)

AND THEN THERE'S TOM PARKER OUR REUNION WEBMASTER, WHO HELPED PULL TOGETHER OUR REUNION WEB SITE AND THE PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES BEHIND REUNION. THANK YOU, TOM! (APPLAUSE)

LET'S HAVE ONE MORE ROUND OF APPLAUSE FOR ALL THESE GREAT CLASSMATES WHO MADE OUR 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION COME TO LIFE! (APPLAUSE)

THE LAST TIME SO MANY '84s CAME TOGETHER WAS RIGHT HERE FOR OUR COMMENCEMENT, SOME 25 YEARS AGO. YOU'LL REMEMBER IT WAS A HOT, SUN-FILLED DAY. THE AIR WAS STILL AS WE WALKED IN PROCESSION ACROSS THE GREEN TO THIS VERY PLACE.

25 YEARS FROM NOW, WE WILL WALK THE COMMENCEMENT PROCESSION ONCE AGAIN, FOR OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION, ALONG WITH THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2034. AND THEY'RE ALMOST ON THEIR WAY – IN ABOUT TWO OR THREE YEARS, THEY'LL BE BORN INTO THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD! (PAUSE)

FELLOW '84s, TODAY, WE STAND AS A CLASS AT HIGH NOON, MIDWAY BETWEEN OUR COMMENCEMENT AND OUR 50<sup>TH</sup>. WE TAKE PAUSE. WE TAKE HEED OF THE PAST, AS WE TURN TOWARD THE FUTURE.

IT WOULD BE FAIR TO ASK OURSELVES, WHAT SETS US APART AS A CLASS? WHAT MAKES US ANY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WHO HAVE COME BEFORE US, OR FROM THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER?

25 YEARS ON FROM COMMENCEMENT, HOW ARE WE FORGING OUR IDENTITY AS A CLASS?

TO START, THERE ARE THE '84 WOMEN. IF THE CLASS OF 1972 MARKED THE ARRIVAL OF WOMEN TO THE HANOVER PLAIN, THE CLASS OF 1984 CONSOLIDATED THE GAINS OF THE FIRST DECADE OF COEDUCATION. WITH THE ADVENT OF EQUAL ACCESS ADMISSION, OUR CLASS BEGAN TO MOVE THE NUMBER OF MEN AND WOMEN IN DARTMOUTH CLASSES TO PARITY.

AS WE LOOK AMONG US, FOUR OF EVERY TEN CLASSMATES HERE TONIGHT ARE WOMEN. FELLOW '84s, NEVER BEFORE HAVE SO MANY DARTMOUTH WOMEN COME TOGETHER FOR A 25<sup>TH</sup> REUNION AS THE MORE THAN 130 '84 WOMEN WHO'VE RETURNED TO HANOVER THIS WEEKEND! (APPLAUSE)

BUT WHAT BRINGS DISTINCTION TO THE WOMEN OF THE CLASS OF 1984 IS NOT THAT THEY JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE MARKED A PARTICULAR MOMENT IN DARTMOUTH HISTORY, BUT THAT TO THIS DAY THEY REMAIN SO STRONGLY ENGAGED WITH DARTMOUTH, FULFILLING THEIR PROMISE OF LEADERSHIP.

TODAY, TWO '84s SERVE AS DARTMOUTH TRUSTEES, CHRISSY BUCKLIN AND KAREN FRANCIS, BOTH '84 WOMEN. ONE '84 SERVES ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, WHO IS ALSO THE ONLY '84 TO HAVE WON THE YOUNG DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD. THAT'S MARIAN BALDAUF, AN '84 WOMAN. AND INDEED, OUR CLASS PRESIDENTS FOR THE FIRST 20 YEARS OUT – LUCIA JACKSON, KAREN FRANCIS, LEIGH GARRY MILLER, MOLLY WENDER – ALL ARE '84 WOMEN! (APPLAUSE)

ANOTHER TURNING POINT THAT MARKED OUR PASSAGE ON THE HANOVER PLAIN WAS DARTMOUTH'S COMMITMENT TO THE WORLD BEYOND AMERICA'S SHORES. IN THE FALL OF 1982, OUR JUNIOR YEAR, DARTMOUTH

INAUGURATED THE JOHN SLOAN DICKEY ENDOWMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING.

TODAY AT DARTMOUTH, THE DICKEY CENTER THRIVES. ITS MOTTO IS JOHN SLOAN DICKEY'S WORDS, "MAKE THE WORLD'S TROUBLES YOUR TROUBLES." INDEED, MANY AMONG US HAVE SET OFF INTO THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD AND RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE OF DICKEY'S CALL.

TAKE KAREN FINKELSTON, WHO'S IN FROM HONG KONG. THROUGH HER WORK TO BRING FINANCING TO PEOPLE IN RURAL PLACES OF CHINA AND MONGOLIA, KARIN KNOWS THAT THE THIRST FOR OPPORTUNITY IN TODAY'S WORLD KNOWS NO BOUNDARIES.

TAKE ANNE ARQUIT NIEDERBERGER, NOW A DUAL SWISS-AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHO KNOWS THAT A MOLECULE OF A GREENHOUSE GAS EMITTED ANYWHERE ON EARTH KNOWS NO BOUNDARY. ANNE FLEW IN VIA BONN, GERMANY, WHERE SHE'S NEGOTIATING A NEW INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK AMONG 190 NATIONS TO REPLACE THE KYOTO PROTOCOL.

OR TAKE KAYA KAZMIRCI, A DUAL TURKISH-AMERICAN CITIZEN, WHO FROM HIS BASE IN ISTANBUL GOES BEYOND BOUNDARIES AND GETS TELECOM EQUIPMENT ON THE GROUND IN TOUGH PLACES TO REACH LIKE IRAQ.

THE LIST OF '84s TAKING ACTION AROUND THE GIRDLED EARTH GOES ON. BUT WE KNOW THAT IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THE WORLD'S TROUBLES ARE NOT JUST BEYOND OUR SHORES. '84s ARE RISING TO DICKEY'S CHALLENGE RIGHT HERE AT HOME.

JUST ASK JIM SCHAEFER WHO ON THE MORNING OF 9/11 WAS IN A BUILDING ALONGSIDE THE WORLD TRADE CENTERS. HE EVACUATED, SAW A BARRICADE BEING SET UP, SHOWED HIS MILITARY ID AND REPORTED TO DUTY AS AN AIR FORCE RESERVE OFFICER. JIM TOLD ME, "I HAD NO CHOICE. "EVERYTHING I'D LEARNED TO THAT POINT TOLD ME WHAT TO DO."

TONIGHT WE HONOR LT. COLONEL JIM SCHAEFER AND OTHER '84s LIKE LT. COMMANDER MIKE WHITMAN, WHO HAD TO PASS ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> WHEN HE WAS CALLED UP FOR NAVY RESERVE DUTY. WE HONOR LT. COMMANDER AL CHAKER AND LT. COLONEL TED COOPERSTEIN AND ALL THOSE '84S WHO MAKE THE WORLD'S TROUBLES THEIR TROUBLES BY THEIR WILLINGNESS TO PUT THEMSELVES IN HARM'S WAY TO KEEP US OUT OF HARM'S WAY.

(APPLAUSE)

WE ALSO HONOR THOSE CLASSMATES WHO RESPOND TO DICKEY'S CALL THROUGH PUBLIC SERVICE, LIKE MARA RUDMAN, WHO IS SERVING ON THE TEAM OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL ENVOY FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. OR TOM CALLAHAN, WHO'S SERVED HUMANITY'S GREATER CAUSE IN AFRICA AND DIPLOMACY'S GREATER CAUSE IN THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT. OR BILL LOEVINGER, WHO THE U.S. TREASURY SECRETARY IS CALLING BACK FROM BEIJING TO WASHINGTON TO WORK ON CHINA AFFAIRS.

AND OF COURSE THERE'S LEAH DAUGHTRY, WHO'S SERVED AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE, AND THEN CEO OF THE 2008 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION.

BUT THEN THERE'S THE VERY SAME LEAH DAUGHTRY AND HER OTHER "DAY JOB," WHERE LEAH FOUND HER CALLING AS A PENTACOSTAL PREACHER. OR TAKE LUCIA JACKSON, WHO MINISTERS TO A SMALL CONGREGATION JUST DOWN THE ROAD IN HARTLAND, VERMONT, WHERE WORDS OF DARTMOUTH ARE ETCHED IN THE STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS OF HER CHURCH.

LEAH AND LUCIA KNOW THAT IT IS NOT SO MUCH THE GANDIOSE GESTURES OF PRESIDENTS AND PREMIERS ON THE GLOBAL STAGE THAT BUILD A BETTER WORLD, BUT FIRST AND FOREMOST THE EVERYDAY GESTURES OF PEOPLE WHO MAKE A DIFFERENCE RIGHT AT HOME.

TAKE JANICE TANAKA TOWER, WHO'S IN FROM ANCHORAGE, ALASKA. SEE IF HER WORDS RING TRUE FOR YOU:

I used to harbor a sense of inadequacy when attending a Dartmouth reunion. I didn't return to Hanover as a doctor or a lawyer or the chairwoman of a Fortune 500 corporation, and I couldn't boast about my latest accumulations of wealth.

My "ah ha" moment came just last year when my youngest went off to college... and I reflected on my "real" occupation which was raising two kids to succeed in their college years and beyond, and to leave a legacy of community improvements as a Supermom and Supervolunteer. I've built a mountain biking program for 175 young bikers, developed Anchorage's first junior cycling team, and advocated for parks and trails.

AND THEN THERE'S SISSEL WIVESTAD McCARTHY, FORMER BUSINESS NEWS ANCHOR WITH CNN IN LONDON, TURNED PROFESSOR OF JOURNALISM AND MOTHER OF FOUR IN ALTANTA. SISSEL WRITES:

Of course, life doesn't always turn out the way you expect. For us, this was learning that our youngest son Justin has mild cerebral palsy. Giving him and all my boys the tools and skills they need to reach their potential is really my life's work.

JANICE AND SISSEL. BUILDING A BETTER WORLD FROM THE GROUND UP.  
(APPLAUSE)

FELLOW '84s, YES, THIS IS OUR HIGH NOON, MIDWAY BETWEEN COMMENCEMENT AND OUR 50<sup>TH</sup>. WE PAUSE. WE TAKE HEED OF WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING.

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK? HOW WILL WE VIEW WHERE WE STAND NOW, 25 MORE YEARS DOWN THE ROAD?

NIGEL JAQUISS, OUR PULITZER-PRIZE-WINNING JOURNALIST, OFFERS US A LITTLE FORESIGHT, WITH THE BENEFIT OF HINDSIGHT. NIGEL PUTS IT MOST SUCCINCTLY, AND I QUOTE:

When I recall what an unformed blob of clay I was in 1984, I'm surprised I could navigate from one side of the Green to the other without assistance. In 25 years, I'll probably be saying the same thing about my general cluelessness in 2009.

WELL, THERE YOU HAVE IT, STRAIGHT FROM OUR PULITZER JOURNALIST.

25 YEARS FROM NOW, AS WE LINE UP FOR THE COMMENCEMENT PROCESSION WITH THE CLASS OF 2034, WHAT WILL BE OUR LEGACY AS A CLASS? WHAT WILL BE OUR LEGACIES AS INDIVIDUALS? WILL WE HAVE RESPONDED TO THE CHALLENGE OF DICKEY'S CALL TO MAKE THE WORLD'S TROUBLES OUR TROUBLES – NOT ONLY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE, BUT IN WAYS THAT ARE MEANINGFUL TO EACH OF US, RIGHT AT HOME?

FELLOW '84s, SOON WE SHALL SET OFF AGAIN FROM BAKER'S LAWN, MAKING OUR WAYS BACK OUT IN THE WIDE, WIDE WORLD. MAY YOU DEPART A BIT REJUVENATED FROM THIS SOJOURN ON THE HANOVER PLAIN, WITH A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE.

AS OUR REGGAE STAR, FENTON WARDLE WOULD SAY, MAY YOU GO FORTH WITH BLESSINGS. OR AS OUR REUNION CHAPLAIN LUCIA JACKSON WOULD SAY, MAY YOU GO IN PEACE.

MAY YOU GO WITH THE HILL WINDS AT YOUR BACK. MAY THEY CARRY YOU ALONG, AND BRING YOU BACK TO OUR COLLEGE ON THE HILL, WHEN WE SHALL MEET AGAIN. (APPLAUSE)

FELLOW '84s, PLEASE STAND AND JOIN ERIC TAYLOR, MARK MONTGOMERY, DEBBIE LOGAN AND LEAH DAUGHTRY IN THE SINGING OF "MEN OF DARTMOUTH."