



# GREEN LIGHT

Volume 9, Number 2 *Newsletter of Dartmouth's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Alumni/ae Association* December 2004

## REUNION “AWESOME!”

### Goodridge, Saccio Among Honorees

A highlight of the reunion weekend was the GALA Awards Dinner attended by 150 at Alumni Hall on Saturday evening. At the dinner, D-GALA honored Hillary Goodridge '78 with its second President's Award, given to an alum who has significantly advanced LGBT civil rights. Goodridge and her partner Julie were lead plaintiffs in the famous gay marriage case decided by the Massachusetts Supreme Court in November of last year. In its decision, the court held that Hillary and Julie, as well as other same-sex couples in Massachusetts, were entitled to the same civil right to marriage as other couples under the Massachusetts constitution. As a result of the court's ruling, Hillary and Julie were married on May 17, 2004, and over 4,000 same-sex couples have been lawfully married in Massachusetts since then.

In accepting her award, Hillary recalled the very difficult early days of coeducation at Dartmouth, characterized by widespread sexism and homophobia. But she also remembered how



Honorees Bronski, Saccio, Goodridge and Racca with Reunion Co-Chair Trevor Burgess '94 and David Eichman '82  
minority students worked together to protest these

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Alums representing over forty different classes from 1953 to 2004, together with numerous spouses, guests, students, faculty and staff, joined in a “totally fabulous” D-GALA all-class reunion in Hanover during the weekend of October 1-3 earlier this fall. Over two hundred participated in the reunion events, which were held in nearly all of the College’s most renown forums – Baker Library, the Top of the Hop, Alumni Hall, 105 Dartmouth Hall, the DOC House on Occum Pond, Webster Hall (now Rauner Library) and Rollins Chapel.



#### Dean Larimore welcomes D-GALA Alums at Dinner

The weekend got underway on Friday afternoon, when early-arriving alums were able to visit LGBT-relevant classes open to them, including Professor Michael Bronski's Queer Studies Seminar. Also on Friday afternoon, there was an open house at the LGBT Student Center in Robinson Hall. The official welcome reception took place in the main lobby of Baker Library, where President Wright welcomed D-GALA alums, who were joined by many students, faculty and staff (see detailed story, page 3). Later on Friday evening, a large crowd gathered at Filene Auditorium for a performance by Latina and lesbian comedienne Marga Gomez. Audience

“Awesome”, *continued page 2*

conditions. In closing she said, "This weekend is about hope and reconciliation in a place where many of us had mixed experiences and feelings." (See page 3 for Hillary's "thank you" to D-GALA.)

### **Saccio, Racca Honored**

D-GALA's Vision Awards are given to a member of the Dartmouth faculty and a member of the Dartmouth administration who have worked with D-GALA to help advance LGBT issues and concerns. The faculty winner this year was longtime Dartmouth English Professor Peter Saccio, chosen for his pioneering support of LGBT students at Dartmouth. Peter served as lead trustee of the Carpenter Foundation from its founding in 1985 until 2000. The Carpenter Foundation was established by Ralph Elias '32 to support LGBT students at Dartmouth at a time when Dartmouth would not accept funds for such a purpose. In his remarks, Saccio remembered his agonizing decision in 1984 whether to become advisor to Dartmouth's fledgling LGBT student group. Peter ultimately said "yes," thinking how he wished that some professor at his undergraduate college had done the same twenty years earlier.

Also honored with a Vision Award was Sylvia Racca, Executive Director of the Dartmouth College Fund since 2002. Sylvia has been an open and forthright supporter of D-GALA since coming to Dartmouth, personally joining D-GALA and becoming a reunion sponsor, and in her professional capacity working with D-GALA to boost its outreach and membership, such as by funding D-GALA's full page ad in the May/June edition of the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*.

### **Leadership Award**

D-GALA's Leadership Award, given to an individual who has advanced LGBT issues on a national or international level, was presented to Michael Bronski, Visiting Scholar at Dartmouth in Women/Gender Studies and Jewish Studies. Bronski, who was introduced at the dinner by Dartmouth Religion Professor Susan Ackerman '80, has been active in pursuing LGBT rights since 1969. In the early 1970s Bronski was an original member of some of the first LGBT literary and news publications. More recently, Michael has written on LGBT issues in many nationally-recognized publications, and this year he won the Lambda Literary Award for Best Anthology with "Pulp Friction: Uncovering the Golden Age of Gay Male Pulps." ♦

reaction indicated that the show was a big success, though there were some nervous alum moments early in the performance when Ms. Gomez started using in her routine some of the alums' autobiographical sketches published in the reunion program! A reception with Ms. Gomez, co-sponsored by Dartmouth's faculty/staff LGBT group, the Coalition for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Concerns, followed the show at Rauner Library (formerly Webster Hall).

Saturday morning, after breakfast at Hinman Forum, featured three diverse interactive panel sessions. The first, a faculty and administration panel, was led by Michelle Meyers '83, Director of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action; Professor Susan Ackerman '80, Dean of the College James Larimore; Director of Athletics Josie Harper and Dean of Pluralism and Leadership Tommy Lee Woon. The second panel, moderated by Pam Misener, Assistant Dean and Advisor for LGBT Students, featured six LGBTQA Dartmouth students who spoke about LGBT life and issues on campus today. Finally, an open forum enabled alums to discuss their own experiences as students at Dartmouth. This forum was facilitated by Allen Drexel '91, who has extensively researched and written a thesis on LGBT history at Dartmouth.

After a CookOUT lunch at the DOC House, alums were treated to a screening of "Jim in Bold," a documentary film by Mike Glatze '97. Mike's very moving work juxtaposes his filmed chronicles of LGBT youth around the country with the tragic story of the suicide of teenager Jim Wheeler. Mike discussed his film and related experiences with alums after the screening.

Following a cocktail party at the Top of the Hop on Saturday evening, the GALA Awards Dinner was held at Alumni Hall in the Hop. Dean of the College Jim Larimore welcomed D-GALA alums, noting in his remarks the difficult times and lack of support from the College that many of them had experienced at Dartmouth, but stating, "Today at Dartmouth we know better, and we are trying to do better." Green Lambda, a graduate student LGBT group, sponsored an after dinner reception in the Faculty Lounge.

Sunday morning began with a moving Service of Remembrance, Celebration and Hope in Rollins Chapel, led by College ministers and Rev. Jimichael Engels '58. A great brunch and closing remarks followed.

The best words describing the weekend, and what it meant to the assembled alums, are set forth in the last three pages of this newsletter (beginning on the back page), where the heartfelt remarks of many of the alums who attended are reprinted. ♦

# PRESIDENT WRIGHT WELCOMES LGBT ALUMS

President Wright addressed D-GALA's alums and their guests at the Friday evening welcome reception at Baker Library. The President's remarks were well received by those present, and we excerpt them here:

**We are thrilled with your return to campus for another D-GALA all-class reunion.... I speak on behalf of Dartmouth, the Board of Trustees and the many students whose lives you change through your support and involvement.... We owe you our deep gratitude for your generosity to the College and our students.**

**My image of Dartmouth is of a community that is truly that – where each of us is valued for who we are.... I value diversity for its fundamental educational role. And I have regularly affirmed my commitment to it.**

**We are very grateful for your support for our highest aspirations and for pushing those aspirations. Sometimes challenging us ... you have helped see us through some needed changes.... I urge you to take pleasure in your many accomplishments. Enjoy them. But then continue your good work.**

**When I came to Dartmouth 34 years ago, there were no resources available for gay students (there were no lesbian students) and gay and lesbian issues were rarely incorporated into the curriculum. Much has changed since then ... and you need to take credit and pride in what we – you really – have done. ...**



**In the past few years you have almost doubled your participation in the Dartmouth College Fund giving.... I hope you know what this says symbolically – this is your Dartmouth. You affirm your pride and your responsibility for this institution, you are not closeted here.**

**Dartmouth has a ways to go ... but thanks to the work and vision of so many of our GLBT alumni/ae, we can truly celebrate our progress. Your college needs you – and, goodness, your country needs you. Adlai Stevenson once said about Eleanor Roosevelt that "She would rather light candles than curse the darkness, and her glow has warmed the world." Together we can light still more candles. It is not enough to be passive supporters of GLBT – we need to be actively against intolerance. Too many people are fanning homophobia.**

**Thank you for all that you do to support our students and this special place. We have important work to do – a role to play if we are, in Margaret Mead's good words, to help our nation "weave a social fabric in which each diverse human gift will find a fitting place." ♦**

## Hillary Goodridge Thank You Message to D-GALA

**Thank you so much for a wonderful evening and the incredible honor of the President's Award. It means the world to me (and Julie and Annie were thrilled as well). I had such a great time being back at Dartmouth, and felt connected as I never had before. I think that's because D-GALA has made a place for the painful realities some of us had to be acknowledged, as well as the happy times. I don't have to shut down half my life/brain/emotions to be at Dartmouth now. I am very grateful to you, the D-GALA Board and the college administrators you work with for that. What an amazing thing you have done.**

**Sincerely, Hillary**

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# Reunion Photos



Reunion Co-Chairs Susi Kandel '00 and Trevor Burgess '94



David Eichman & Trevor Burgess present Sylvia Racca & Jim Wright with D-GALA Dartmouth College Fund check for \$62,680



Charles Burke, Thomas Song '53, Sarah Burgamy '00, and Monique Box chat at Baker Library reception



President Wright, Doug Mastin '04 and Emma Sloan '05 exchange a laugh at Baker Library reception



Left: Candlelight Ceremony at Remembrance Ceremony  
Above: Yummy Food at Sunday Brunch!

# President's Message

This is my final column as President of D-GALA so forgive me if I wax nostalgic. After the upcoming election for 4 seats on the D-GALA Board of Directors, new officer elections will be held. It has been my pleasure to serve as President these past 6 years. The membership of D-GALA has grown tremendously during this time. The big event of the year was the second College-supported all class reunion. As you can see from the various articles and photos, it was a resounding success. I want to take the time to thank all the members of the Board of Directors for their help and assistance over the years. D-GALA is fortunate to be led by a group of alumni/ae who are committed to making Dartmouth a better place for all students and for ensuring that the College is a welcome and supportive place for GLBT students, faculty, administrators, staff and alumni/ae. I want to especially thank all of the reunion sponsors, especially our platinum sponsors: the Office of the Dean of the College (James Larimore), The Advocate, Trevor Burgess '94 and Blake Franklin '63. A list of all reunion sponsors will be posted on the D-GALA website. We were able to raise over \$12,000.00 from our sponsors which accomplished two important goals: 1) it made the reunion affordable for many alums and 2) it enabled students to attend a lot of the events. Thank you sponsors! It was really an amazing weekend with alums spanning six decades! A special thank you to all the students, including many from the class of 2008. Reunion photos will be posted on the website soon. The future of D-GALA is in good hands! David Eichman '82, President, D-GALA ♦

## D-GALA NOTES

**Four (4) seats on the 12-member D-GALA Board of Directors** are expiring December 31, 2004 and an election will be held at the beginning of next year. The term is for three (3) years. The deadline for applying is January 15, 2005. If you are interested in running, please e-mail a statement of interest and a resume to D-GALA President, David Eichman '82, at [dme4law@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dme4law@sbcglobal.net). D-GALA is also in the process of setting up **standing committees**, e.g. reunion planning, fundraising, regional events, member relations, so if you would like to become more involved, but not commit to serving on the Board of Directors, please consider joining a committee. If there is a specific area that interests you, please let us know in your message.

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**When is the next reunion?** Our next all-class reunion is a ways away, but never fear! Each June D-GALA holds reunion events in Hanover during the weekend of the "younger" class reunions. Next year, those events will be during the weekend of June 17-19, 2005. And it doesn't matter whether or not your class is reuniting, you're always welcome at the D-GALA events, and the College traditionally offers dorm housing to any of our members who are attending. So if you'd like to join D-GALA in June, e-mail us at [DartGALA@aol.com](mailto:DartGALA@aol.com).

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**Renew your D-GALA membership!** D-GALA depends on your donations to support its many activities (including this newsletter!). Please renew your membership today at our website: <http://www.dartmouth.org/affiliated/dgala/>. Thank you!

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**D-GALA donates to Zeke Webber '00 Memorial Fund.** This summer D-GALA donated \$500 to the Ezekiel Webber Memorial Fund at the UCLA School of Law. The fund was established in memory of Zeke, a former D-GALA director, who passed away in the spring. More on Zeke, and on the LGBT-advocacy fund established in his memory, may be found at <http://www1.law.ucla.edu/~williamsproj/programs/Webber.html>.

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**Bourne Student Fund established.** During the winter term of 2002, Dartmouth student Rosita Bourne '03 was anonymously outed to her parents, who responded by financially disowning her. Generous D-GALA members joining in the effort to support Rose during this traumatic time raised \$1,300 to help Rose to be able to continue at Dartmouth. We are happy to report, that through the help of D-GALA and other members of the College community, Rose was able to graduate with her class in 2003. To be in a position to support Dartmouth students who may find themselves in similar circumstances in the future, D-GALA has established the Bourne Student Fund to support financially disowned LGBT students who wish to remain at Dartmouth. In the words of Andy Foery '04, who helped in establishing the Fund, "I aspire to live in a world where this fund will not be necessary, but for the meantime, please consider those students who may face this difficult situation in the future." If you would like to support the Bourne Student Fund, please e-mail D-GALA's Treasurer, Pete Williams '76, at [DartGALA@aol.com](mailto:DartGALA@aol.com). ♦

## REUNION COMMENTS (Continued from back page)

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moving stories of so many who came after me at Dartmouth — and of those who came before me too! — and to know that things, finally, have begun to improve.

But more than anything, this D-GALA reunion has provided that sense of community that was so completely absent in my difficult days as a student. So let me be among the first to put in my vote for a reunion of some sort every year. I certainly intend to spread the word to whomever I can to get more people interested in attending. And I hereby volunteer to do my part in the planning, if I can be of assistance. In closing, I want to say to Trevor Burgess, Susi Kandel, David Eichman, Pam Misener, Maria Higuerey-Birgisson, Dean Larimore and all the other D-GALA board members, college staff and anyone else who had a part in planning these two reunions — know that you have made a difference. And it is all good. Lewis Lazare '74.

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The D-GALA all-class reunion marked my first time back on campus in 29 years. Having matriculated into the last all-male class, the idea of attending a mostly-male class reunion had never been appealing. Then I saw the ad in the Alumni Magazine for the D-GALA reunion and I wondered if it might provide an environment where I would at least be "understood." Well, my partner and I attended and the weekend exceeded my wildest expectations. The students, staff and faculty at the reunion went out of their way to make all of us, including me, feel warmly welcomed. The Dean of the College marked the importance of the weekend by attending most, if not all, of the reunion events. And President Wright's

opening address moved some of us to tears — he clearly "gets it." How impressive it was, too, to meet Dartmouth's Assistant Dean of Student Life devoted full-time to LGBTQA students. Pam Misener is great and very much on top of ALL aspects of LGBTQA life. I came away from the weekend feeling reconnected to Dartmouth. I definitely plan on attending the next D-GALA reunion, and I sincerely hope other transgender alums will, too. Joanne A. Herman '75

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I had such a good time at the reunion, I hardly know where to begin describing my experience. I think having a chance to meet people from other years and realize that, although we were all from different backgrounds and regions and decades, we shared something very deep and very critical to our Dartmouth experience was the most astonishing aspect of the weekend. I felt that, even though I was close to many of my '97 friends, those 150 of us or so who attended the reunion understood (maybe even if we didn't outrightly say it) a common gut feeling, a feeling totally wiped away by just the fact that we were there together and by seeing the inspirational passion of the undergraduates, people like Pam Misener and the Dean and even the President's warm and intelligent speech. I felt welcome at Dartmouth, in a new way. And I now feel happy to return and bring my family to reunions in the future. Thanks to Trevor, Susi, Pete, David, and all the others who created the weekend. Mike Glatze '97.

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It was a magnificent and triumphant Home-Coming. I finally returned to my home after

half a century. Together with my life partner of 35 years. The Baker bell clanged. A huge Rainbow Flag hung at the entrance of the Alumni Hall. A sign welcomed us. At night, the green light sparkled up on Baker Tower, the meaning of which only we, the Sons (and of course, Daughters) of Dartmouth always remembered in our exiled hearts. The true diversity of our campus population was evident everywhere. It does not need proof. All we have to do is just to stand at the center of the Green. Fifty-six years ago, Dartmouth picked me up literally off the streets of Boston. For four years, she sheltered me, fed me, and educated me. I have never forgotten Her kindness. And I always will love Her. Thanks, DGALA officers and volunteers, and the staff of Dartmouth who made this possible. You have accomplished a miracle. Thomas Song '53.

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As a longtime resident of Hanover after graduation, this was my first Dartmouth reunion ever, since I graduated over 25 years ago and it was well worth attending. There were moments that were "magical", where the comment, the anecdote, the remembrance, the thoughts, and the reflection was both poignant and insightful. The reunion was so much more than I expected and I met and made new friends among these fellow alums (many new to me) as well as with the students. A highlight of the weekend was the movie *Jim in Bold*. Simply viewing that film would give you a glimpse into the power of this reunion. I also appreciated our ability to reflect on the past while not wallowing in it and to discover that we are not only not alone in the world at large as we well know but that we have unknown supporters within the Dartmouth

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community. As President Wright put so well in his D-GALA Reunion Opening speech, noting that there are only 600 members in D-GALA out of Dartmouth's 70,000+ alumni, "but we know there are a lot more!" Most of all, to simply be completely myself in a place where I had never succeeded in doing so prior to this weekend was in a word, refreshing. John Thomas '78.

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Thank you so much for making the D-GALA Reunion possible. I had a terrific time meeting alumni and hearing their stories. I felt that I spent the weekend with a group of close friends who share a real passion for Dartmouth. I can't wait until the next one!

P.S. Please bring back Marga. She was absolutely hilarious!  
Isai Peimer, Tu'05.

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Thank you for what I can only describe as a series of hell-freezing-over moments. Things I never thought I'd live long enough to see on the Hanover plain. (Maybe it's now no longer so plain -- the Hanover Faaaabulous, perhaps?)  
Roger Klorese '77.

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A tremendous program this past weekend. It was very informative, warm, and inclusive. My partner, Rob Leary, and I enjoyed it a great deal. I was particularly struck by how welcoming Dartmouth is these days to GLBT students and faculty, a situation which did not exist back 30 years ago. Rich Yurko '75.

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I am so grateful for the chance to attend the reunion. It was wonderful to feel part of a community that is contributing so much to making our society a better place. There is still so much work to be done, and these reunions give us a

chance to build our relationships, align our efforts, and pool our resources to create social change. It was wonderful to see some old friends, and thrilling to make new ones. I look forward to the next reunion!  
Brian Cina '98.

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I feel fortunate to live in the Upper Valley and to work at Dartmouth and to have experienced the sea change at the College in the inclusion of LGBT folks into campus life. It truly has been a radical shift from the deeply homophobic days in the late sixties when I was an undergraduate. It was great to meet alums from many different generations and to renew so many acquaintances. It was a treat to share with others what for me is an everyday experience: being inspired by today's students! John Crane '69.

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Looking back, I feel that at the 2002 reunion, a lot of us were reliving and working through the challenges our Dartmouth years gave us as GLBT individuals. That weekend turned many of us, myself included, into believers in Dartmouth and its ability to change. To me, the mood of this past weekend to me was one of celebration of our GLBT-ness and our membership in the Dartmouth brother- and sisterhood. It was wonderful to meet the many first-time attendees and watch their very similar transformation. The varied activities were all on the mark. What really struck me is how many among us have achieved some degree of celebrity with regard to gay and lesbian issues--a staggering thought when one realizes that in the 70's at Dartmouth, homosexuality really was "the love that dare not speak its name"! Overall, the GALA weekend is the hottest ticket in

town for GLBT alums. Stan Sack '79.

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This was a weekend that documented the increasing value that the college places on D-GALA in place, in people, and in what they say. First, look at the venues. Just about all the key sites -- Dartmouth's totems -- were used during the reunion: dinner in Alumni Hall, the site of all important alumni dinners; reception in Top of the Hop; cocktail party in Baker Library; lunch at the DOC House. Memorial service in Rollins Chapel; sessions in major forums; reception in Webster Hall. Second, most of the key college officials were present. The Dean of the College, Jim Larimore, was with us on each day. President Wright spoke to us. Third, what they said about gays at Dartmouth was ground breaking. President Wright's message was particularly powerful -- you can come out of the closet at Dartmouth College -- about 180 degrees from the Dartmouth that most of us in the pre-coed classes experienced. Then it was decidedly not OK to be gay at Dartmouth, and now it is, officially, from the top. It was heart warming -- and caused me to break down in tears. Bob Conn '61.

I attended the first D-GALA reunion, and knew the second would be well worth my time, but was overwhelmed by the emotions that came from inside. Thank you and especially thank the current students for their strong participation in all the forums and events. I hope that we were able to give them at least a small fraction of what they gave us this weekend. For the next reunion, please allow for more free time but don't cut a thing from the program. Bill Robbe '76. ♦

# COMMENTS BY REUNION PARTICIPANTS

It was my first time back to Hanover since the Middle Ages when I graduated (1976 seems so long ago!). Fellow 76'er Bill Robbe had to cajole me into going, and I am so glad he did. I had expected to be bored and indifferent. What happened, however, is that I rediscovered what I really loved about Dartmouth. For four years, we were told that we were the best, the next leaders, and that we could do anything. I got caught up in that spirit again during the reunion, and it made me feel all the huge positives of four years on campus, interacting with bright young men and women. My favorite part of the experience was all the interaction with current students. They were so fresh, eager, bright and cute! It's so nice to see that they have a less threatening environment than many of us experienced. Hearing Jim Wright and Dean Larimore talk about all the proactive efforts to make the campus more nurturing for diversity, and particularly for us of the more pink persuasion, was heartening. What's more, my husband Robert Welsch really enjoyed the weekend. He loved the campus, and thought the events were good, too. Yes, Trevor, and everyone else who asked for money 37 killion times, I will give, and more than I have in the past. You deserve it for helping to effect positive change! **Dave Davenport '76.**

I really enjoyed my time to reconnect with the alumni and present students. The conference gave me opportunity to reflect on the evolutions of the College from generation to generation, and to really respect the budding diversity of the alumni community. I also know that

part of my heart is always with the experiences I had at the College, and the community that made my experience so rewarding. From the people there (thank goodness for super-senior '04s, for making me feel younger) to the people not there (those who we have lost, and those many who we missed), I was grateful for the chance to bring back a host of Dartmouth memories. For all of the alumni not present, you were most certainly remembered. **Chris La Barbera '02.**

I commend the D-GALA Reunion committee for the progress made planning a terrific reunion for LGBT alums. You took the best of our suggestions from last time and implemented them. I missed the first panel Saturday morning, but thought the student panel and the alum's open panel were both wonderful. I hope you'll keep them both in the program for next time. Mike G's movie *Jim in Bold* was fabulous as were his honest, open answers in the Q&A period. Saturday's dinner/celebration of the best of our community was moving and inspirational. And the food was good too! Throughout the weekend I had a sense of gratitude toward Dartmouth for bringing such a remarkable group of people together to share experiences and ideas. I think I was supposed to have felt that 30 years ago, but it's taken this long for enough changes to occur at Dartmouth, for me to feel that gratitude unencumbered by the painful memories. **Linda Markin '77.**

To be honest, I'm not much for words, well, besides "that was an awesome \*^^(^)ing time!!! do it again and again!" (You can

quote me on that). Thanks for everything. **Jeremy Warburg '08.**

Hi everyone. I've worked at the Chicago Sun-Times for four years, so please allow me to borrow a movie rating format from two of my esteemed colleagues at the paper — movie critics Roger Ebert and Richard Roeper. This second D-GALA all-class reunion gets a very enthusiastic two thumbs way, way up from me!! When I left the Dartmouth campus for the last time as an undergraduate 30 years ago, I never imagined I would begin to feel the genuine and heartwarming sense of community I came away with after the first D-GALA reunion. A feeling that was even more pronounced after the second gathering last week. As is now clear to many Dartmouth grads at this second reunion who were on campus in the years after I departed, the 1970's were, in fact, part of what I can only describe as the college's hugely unpleasant Dark Ages. I left campus with no thoughts of ever coming back. And no reason to, really. I had gotten a good education to be sure, but aside from a tiny band of comrades who helped me through it all, my college years yielded none of that wonderful, wide-ranging fellowship that is the unforgettable hallmark of the experience for so many. But now, thanks to the hard work of so many on the D-GALA board of directors and new additions to the college administrative staff, all the painful feelings and memories I long harbored have begun to change. At this reunion, it was wonderful for me to hear the brave, inspiring and often quite

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