

## History of Class Connections

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Class Connections began as an informal relationship between current undergraduate classes and the returning 50-year reunion classes as a way for the reunion class to better understand the current Dartmouth experience.

The reunion class would participate in a variety of projects that matched them with undergrads, from dinners to lectures to leading DOC trips. The Office of Alumni Relations was aware of these activities anecdotally, but decided during the 2004-2005 academic year to standardize it as

*Class Connections*, which formally paired each graduating class with the 50 year reunion class that would be attending their commencement. As the program grew, so did efforts to bring the two classes together in more meaningful ways.

# Dartmouth

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Class Connections is a program of YADA Student Programs through the Office of Alumni Relations.

YADA Student Programs  
Office of Alumni Relations  
6068 Blunt Alumni Center  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, NH 03755  
603-646-9873  
[yada.student.programs@dartmouth.edu](mailto:yada.student.programs@dartmouth.edu)

## CLASS CONNECTIONS

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### A Guide to Connecting with Your 50-year Class Connection

**Bridging Dartmouth's  
past and present**

# How Do We Connect?

## Matriculation and Pin Project

The 50-year Class Connection has been responsible for officially welcoming the incoming first year class to Dartmouth following their matriculation. The students exit Parkhurst and are ushered into a tented reception by your class. Each freshman is given a pin with their class year on it and a short welcome from a representative of your class. Organized by the First Year Office and the Office of Alumni Relations, the 50-year Class usually helps co-sponsor this event financially, but most importantly assures a good turnout of class members for the welcoming!

## First Year Summer Reading Project

Each year, the incoming first-year class is asked to read a book selected by a faculty member who will lecture on that book during their orientation week. In the past, the 50-year Class Connection has also read the book and, at a fall mini-reunion, hosted a reception and book discussion with the first years. Several have also attended the lecture themselves!

## Sophomore Etiquette Dinner

Started in the summer of 2006, the Sophomore Etiquette Dinner was a chance for students to gain etiquette skills before they enter the recruiting process for Junior year internships. Students and alumni gather for a pre-dinner reception to get acquainted and network. A professional speaker is invited by Alumni Relations to give a presentation and members of the 50-year Class Connection are asked to attend the event as well to help engage the students during the dinner portion of the event.

## Receptions

Having a mini-reunion? Want to meet current students? Look no further than your class connection! 50-year Class Connections have invited their corresponding undergraduate's Class Council to reunion dinners and homecoming receptions—though the Office of Alumni Relations is happy to help connect your class to any corresponding group! As a prelude to their 50th reunion, the Class of '57 co-sponsored a dinner with the Class of 2007 over Homecoming Weekend '06 with over 30 people attending and comparing Dartmouth

## The Sky's the Limit

Because each class is different, each class connection focuses on different things. Some classes have events that focus on traditions, others focus on the arts, others focus on networking. The important thing to recognize is that this is a collaboration between the two classes, and you decide what is right for you. If you have a great idea that hasn't been tried before, don't be shy about trying it out!

## Senior Week

Congratulations! It's your 50 year class reunion and the students you've supported for four years are graduating!

We celebrate in the following ways:

## BBQ

The Friday before graduation, the 50 year class and the graduating seniors have a chance to reflect back on their Dartmouth experiences at a barbeque lunch.

## Class Day and Challenge

On the Saturday before Graduation, the Senior Class assembles for awards and reflection at the BEMA. There, they are presented by a check from the 50 year class president. This money will be the seed money for the graduating class and their reunion fund. At *their* 50 year reunion, they will carry the tradition forward and present the graduating class with a similar check.

The 50 year class also challenges the graduating class to meet and exceed their fundraising goals and encourages them to contribute to the Senior Class Gift fund.