



Dartmouth College

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Upperclass Deans Office • 6003 Parkhurst Hall, Rm. 111 • Tel. (603) 646-2243

TEOBY A. GOMEZ

Dean of the Class of 2009

October 2008

Dear Members of the Class of 2009,

Welcome back! I look forward to seeing you all as you begin what for most of you is your last year as a Dartmouth undergraduate. Many of you have already begun the process of thinking about life after Dartmouth. For those of you who have, and those of you who haven't, here are some things to keep in mind:

Graduation Requirements. Look to the Registrar's Office to be your best guide on your progress in completing all of your degree requirements. Review your degree audit carefully to be sure that you and the Registrar agree about your current standing. The degree audit can be accessed through the Banner Student Information System at www.dartmouth.edu/~reg/services/index.html. If you have doubts or find a discrepancy, **DO NOT** assume it will "go away." Be in touch with the Registrar's Office. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS FOR GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS.** In addition to checking your degree audit and your grades each term, it might be a good idea to monitor the Registrar's blitz bulletin for developments as time goes by.

PE Requirement and Swim Test. Every year, someone fails to graduate because she/he has not met the PE and swim requirements. This includes three (3) full terms of PE and swimming 50 yards. Please don't wait to complete these requirements. Sign up **NOW**, or call Rhonda Martin in the PE department (6-2478) if you think you are missing credits here.

Career Services Programs. Career Services is your one-stop-shopping resource center for information and advising on professional/graduate school and employment opportunities. Be sure to monitor the Blitz Bulletins – "Career Services," "Career Services-Entry-level Jobs," throughout the year for information and updates on services and programming schedule.

National and Dartmouth Scholarships. Contact Dean Kristin O'Rourke in the Dean of Faculty Office (6-6489) for information on National and Dartmouth Scholarships.

Monitor Blitz Bulletins. As most of you already know, Blitz Bulletins are often the best and most convenient way of obtaining up-to-date information. Be sure to monitor "2009 Class Council" and "Upperclass Deans Office" which contain information about programs of interest to seniors.

Finally, past experience with seniors prompts me to offer two important pieces of advice. First, time management is more important this year than it has been before. In addition to full course loads and new or continuing extra-curricular and social activities, preparing to leave Dartmouth takes time. Allow room in your schedule to explore post-Dartmouth options, and to make careful, well-considered choices. Secondly, when you do make those choices, resist the temptation to do so based on assumptions. Don't, for example, assume that you know what a particular job or program would be like – find out. And don't assume that you "should" make a choice just because everyone else is doing it. Allow time to reflect on your strengths and weaknesses, values, and personal goals. Identify the pressures you feel and determine how and whether they should influence your decision. Consider the advice of family, friends, faculty members, and others, but let the ultimate decision be your own.

Every year at Class Day the College awards a number of prizes to seniors. A "Senior Activities Questionnaire" provides the Prize Committee with information and is helpful to Class Deans for recommendations and other academic or program opportunities. Please monitor the Upperclass Deans Blitz Bulletin later in the fall 2008 term for future details on the questionnaire.

I look forward to seeing many of you over the course of the coming year to help you with your post Dartmouth plans. My open hours, when you can drop in without an appointment for a quick 15 minute meeting, are Fridays from 1:30-4:00 p.m. If you'd like to schedule a meeting to get together, call 646-2243 for an appointment.

Take care, good luck, and enjoy the year!

Sincerely,

Teoby A. Gomez
2009 Class Dean

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