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Friends,

The Dartmouth community faces great challenges. Even after weathering the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, the College struggles with a structural budget deficit that requires tough decisions by members of the community at all levels. These challenging times demand the intellectual clarity, the boldness of conviction, and the innovative mind of a true Dartmouth leader. That is why I am officially supporting Joe Asch '79 as a petition trustee candidate.

Joe has a professional résumé packed with business experience and financial gravitas that our trustees need — particularly during a time of economic crisis — to help us navigate these hazardous waters. Joe completed his studies at Dartmouth in 1979, graduated from Yale Law School 1983, and has worked as an entrepreneur both at home and abroad. He has always been a loyal son of Dartmouth and has stayed involved with our students, faculty, administration, and staff. Six years ago, he and his wife moved back to Hanover, and he has been even more deeply involved in our community since.

Those are all details that you can find on his website — and believe me, it's just a brief sampling of Joe's experience. But what I in particular feel the need to share is the side of Joe you're unlikely to find replicated in the pages of *The Dartmouth* or around the web.

I first met Joe during my senior year. Having recently been elected as the Speaker of the Dartmouth Political Union, I had scheduled a lunch with an alumnus who had taken a keen interest in our mission. Over lunch, we discussed everything Dartmouth — from campus politics to governance, the health of student organizations to our perspectives on life at the college. That afternoon, I left the Canoe Club with two important things. First, I had Joe's assurance that he would support the Union in any way possible — and he followed through by scheduling many more meetings with our leadership and pouring his energy into helping our fledgling organization move forward. But more importantly, Joe left me with a new, abiding appreciation for Dartmouth and the loyalty she inspires in her alumni.

Over the coming weeks and months, Joe and I sat down several more times and exchanged countless e-mails. As the proud son of a blue-collar worker from an underprivileged, rural Kentucky county, I shared my interest in financial aid and keeping the College open to all those who were qualified to attend. We discussed the difficult nature of the decisions that the administration would be forced to make, the struggle to maintain excellence against the backdrop of economic turmoil; we discussed class sizes and how increasingly likely it is that students will not be able to take their first-choice courses. All of these issues matter deeply to Joe, and he has a strategy to address each of these challenges.

Other candidates and their supporters want to make this trustee election one about blogging or politics. Well, Joe and I are sometimes worlds apart politically — but on how to move Dartmouth forward, I stand with Joe. So my challenge to you is this: look beyond the rhetoric, politics and electioneering and consider the stakes of this race.

Joe is tireless in his support for Dartmouth and in his suggestions for how to make the College run better for everyone. He takes seriously the charge to uphold the traditions of our great institution while improving aspects that weaken our community. In this defining moment in Dartmouth history, let's stand together behind the candidate who most fully understands the breadth of the challenges we face, and who speaks unequivocally about how we make the steep climb to full financial recovery. For me, there can be no doubt that Joe is that candidate.

Brice D. L. Acree '09

Webmaster, Class of 2009