

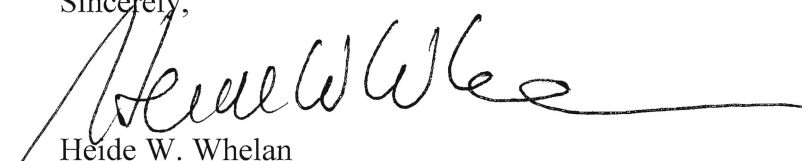
February 23, 2010

I am writing in support of Joe Asch's petition candidacy for the Dartmouth Board of Trustees. I got to know Joe and his wife Elizabeth about nine years ago when my daughter babysat their children and we shared some of our experiences about traveling and living abroad with young children.

Our acquaintanceship deepened when Joe audited my course on the History of Warfare. Joe was enthusiastic, remarkably well prepared for class and a positive presence who put students at ease and furthered debate without monopolizing the discussion. Joe cares deeply about students, their intellectual development and life at the College. He established warm relationships with members of the class and invited them to his house for dinners. I was impressed by the extraordinarily lively and open debates at the dinner table, the diverse perspectives articulated by the students who were challenged by new ideas and approaches to the materials read in class. Joe's openness and approachability made the evenings an enjoyable and memorable experience which, in turn, enhanced the quality of my class. I should also note that Joe is a very generous person who extends a helping hand when he sees a need.

As is well known Joe is deeply committed to the College, its students and faculty. Joe's positions on the fiscal and cultural issues facing the College, his columns in "The D" have aroused attention and controversy. I have disagreed with some of Joe's positions and opinions and Joe is very open to other points of view. One should note, however, that Joe takes the time to gather the facts, talks to faculty, administrators and students both at Dartmouth and peer institutions to get at the facts and he does the research to back up his positions. One may not always agree with his interpretation of the facts or which fact he chooses to emphasize or downplay, but his writings are well grounded. Joe cares about the future of the College and has remarkable energy and intelligence which would make him an asset to the Board of Trustees.

Sincerely,



Heide W. Whelan
Professor of History