



Isaiah Berg '11

December 23, 2009

Dear Dartmouth College Alumni,

I first met Joe Asch '79 in a spacious second-floor classroom in Silsby Hall in the early winter of 2009. Though classes had been long finished for the day, the work of learning was not. Joe, myself, and others, all of us students that evening, were gathering for the Winter Term's Economics Reading Group with Professor Meir Kohn. That term, we were studying *The Economy of Cities* by Jane Jacobs. Every week, we arrived hungry for the exchange of ideas and for passionate argument, and, dare I say it, free pizza. We always left Silsby Hall satisfied on all counts, whether we agreed or not.

I am writing you this letter on behalf of Joe and his petition candidacy for Dartmouth's Board of Trustees. Joe possesses the skills, experience, vision, and determination to help the Board perform its essential duty to the College's academic and administrative affairs.

Since our first meeting in Silsby, Joe has repeatedly demonstrated his constant dedication to Dartmouth, to new ideas, and to the ethic of lifelong education. While Joe's support for Dartmouth has extended far beyond my short time at the College, it has not taken me long to benefit from Joe's work and experience. In our readings of Jane Jacobs and Milton Friedman, his seamless experience of both the private sector in consulting and entrepreneurship, paired with a constant appreciation for academia, made for discussion that was both informative and challenging.

It was with great pleasure that I attended a dinner at Joe's home this past fall of 2009, with a group of students and two professors from Dartmouth's renowned Economics Department. Were it not for Joe's initiative and his wife's legendary French cooking, it would have never happened. That night remains one of the highlights of my time at Dartmouth, and points to the power of an educational philosophy that is less of an occupation and more of a philosophy. I've seen Joe apply it in everything he does at Dartmouth, whether he's interacting with students, or auditing classes, or writing letters to the Dartmouth's editor.

Joe's presence in the Upper Valley has been invaluable to the College and its students, and his perspective on the Board of Trustees is a necessary step in its success as the arbiter of Dartmouth's direction. His extensive knowledge of student and academic life at Dartmouth, informed by his intentional approach to learning and leadership, will be of immense value to the Board's deliberations. You could do few things for Dartmouth as good as placing Joe Asch on its Board of Trustees. Please do not hesitate to support him in his campaign for election. A vote for Joe is a vote for Dartmouth's students, educational ideals, and successful future.

Sincerely,

Isaiah J. Berg '11