

Dear Fellow Alumni,

As a former Student Body President (2005-2006), I am writing to ask for your support for Joe Asch '79 for Trustee. In every election, people wax eloquent about their service to Dartmouth, stretching the infrequent committee meeting, the long-ago held class leadership position, and the convenient donation into a tale of epic loyalty to the College. Such tales are not necessary for Joe; he has lived out his commitment to Dartmouth by conceptualizing and personally funding the Departmental Editing Program (DEP), mentoring students, meeting with administrators and professors, and regularly contributing to *The Daily Dartmouth*.

I will let his resume speak for itself, but I hope that by sharing a few vignettes about Joe's belief in undergraduate education, alumni responsibility, and listening, you can get a better sense of who Joe is, and why he is uniquely qualified to be a trustee of our great College.

As an entrepreneur and former consultant, Joe clearly understands the strategy that has made the College great: specializing in undergraduate education is Dartmouth's competitive advantage and calling. As a student, I majored in Government, and for numerous courses I had to sit on the floor or fight long waiting lists because courses were so oversubscribed. Joe was one of the first people to sound the alarm that this was not business-as-usual: undergraduates, especially majors in their senior year, should have proper access to courses. Seeing Joe's leadership on class size problems, I ran for Student Body President on a platform to pursue oversubscription and was elected.

Joe is a mentor for students, encouraging them to be thankful for the gifts of Dartmouth and also aware of the responsibilities they have as beneficiaries of the College. When I was a student Joe took direct interest in the issues that the Student Assembly was tackling, like revitalizing the Alumni Affairs Committee, and wanted to discuss my ideas. Joe's insights helped give me a better idea of how to engage current student with alumni, but more importantly he contributed to a deeper understanding of what being a Dartmouth alum is about. Students should think of themselves as future alumni because for most of their lives, alumni, is what they will be. As a student, my conversations with Joe helped me start thinking of the College as a blessing accompanied by responsibilities, and I take those lessons with me today as an alumni interviewer and avid Dartmouth promoter.

Joe is not afraid to take principled positions, but he is first a listener. When I was a student leader—Chair of the Alumni Affairs Committee my junior year and Student Body President my senior year—I spoke to numerous alumni, and invariably every conversation included a monologue about their glory days at Dartmouth, the shining light that it used to be, or what they think it should be today. However, Joe's perspective on Dartmouth was different. Joe and his wife Elizabeth regularly invited groups of students to their house for dinner, and he always focused on asking insightful questions to learn about *our Dartmouth experience*. He didn't assume everything was the same as when he was a student, or that it should be. He sought to understand the College as it was, to understand how students saw Dartmouth. This skill of listening before forming opinions will make Joe an incredibly effective Trustee.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for considering Joe for Trustee.

Best regards,

Noah Riner '06
Palo Alto, California