

ZACHARY J MOORE '09

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Dear old Dartmouth,

Alumni are fond of Dartmouth. How could we be otherwise? However, it is rare to find someone who cares about the welfare and well-being of the Dartmouth we love and all of her students as much as Joe Asch. I was delighted to hear that Joe is up for election as a Trustee. Joe has precisely the kind of ideas that will strengthen the College during these unsteady times, ideas rooted in grassroots feedback, hands-on improvements, and a bold vision for the future.

I first came to know Joe through writing for *The Dartmouth* and later for Dartblog. Joe has been a longtime contributor to *The Dartmouth*, regularly publishing columns that suggest new policy directions for the College and stimulate campus debate and discussion. Joe's writing also reflects the pulse of the College; the issues he addresses in his columns, and would surely address as a Trustee, are ones that are important to students on campus and alumni 'round the girdled earth. Joe is uniquely positioned to tackle chronic College concerns that have for years gone unaddressed. For example, as any recent graduate will tell you, core courses in the most popular majors of Government, Economics, History, and Psychology are woefully (and predictably) oversubscribed and new professors are evidently not being vigorously pursued. I have read Joe's statistical analysis of this problem and his proposed solutions and here, as on other important campus issues, Joe's student-based approach to identifying problems will be a major asset as Trustee.

It is all well and good to solve problems in the abstract, but Joe has also taken an involved approach as a concerned alumnus and implemented constructive solutions on the ground. Joe founded and funded the College's Departmental Editing Program, which placed writing editors in a number of academic departments. When the College overhauled the Writing Program, Joe was a vocal participant in the effort to make these changes as effective as possible. By improving the College's teaching of crucial written communication skills, Joe's effective approach to reforming the College's writing program has advantaged countless Dartmouth students and graduates. This is just one example of the real-world problem solving approach that I am confident Joe will bring to the table as a Trustee of our College.

A bold vision lies behind Joe's proven ability to address grassroots concerns with real solutions. Joe has articulated his ideas on important Dartmouth issues from the teaching versus research debate to class oversubscription and academic hiring to trimming the bloated college bureaucracy to engaging and protecting the rights of students and alumni. When I put his ideas together, Joe's vision for Dartmouth is one that is less wasteful and more efficient, less contentious and more inclusive, less aloof and more responsive, and less static and more innovative. I believe that the times call for the kind of bold vision that Joe is offering the College in his campaign for Trustee.

In short, I think Joe's on-the-ground approach to identifying areas of concern, hands-on approach to solving problems, and bold vision for the future of our alma mater uniquely qualify him to serve as a Trustee of Dartmouth College. If Joe's past service to the College is any indication, as daughters and sons of Dartmouth, we should count ourselves lucky for the things that Joe will be able to do for our College as a Trustee.

Sincerely,

Zachary J. Moore '09