

Class of 1994 **THE DISH** Spring 2010

Hello Class of 1994!

The last newsletter I wrote, I hoped that each of you was doing well in this economy. Since then, things have gotten worse, and then a bit better. Which sums up how things have been for me recently. Yes, I got laid off from my only job since Dartmouth, at the end of July. The good news is that I have found a job where I am much happier, and travelling a lot less. It was a tough few months, but also a good opportunity to reconnect with who I am and what is important to me.

It is, if you haven't noticed, a reunion year – I know that everyone has a lot going on in their lives, whether it is with work or with their family. I hope that you are considering getting back to Hanover, and that you decide to go – I just filled out my registration form. It will be good to see everyone.

Drop me a line on the green card, or click on the link at www.dartmouth94.org to send through an update – I will pass them along to the new newsletter editor(s).

For Dartmouth,

Andrew Plumridge

Author, author

So I just finished **Brigid Pasulka's** new book [A Long Long Time Ago & Essentially True](#). I don't know why – it still amazes me when a classmate or friend has a book out. Not that I don't think that they are talented, but it is so much work to get a book written. And then to get it published, too! It was great! A rich mix of Polish culture and a good story. Lots of linkages to the tragic plane crash of the plane on the way to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn forest massacre. Here is the inside cover blurb:

On the eve of World War II in a place called Half-Village, a young man nicknamed the Pigeon falls in love with a girl fabled for her angelic looks. He offers Anielica Hetmanska's family his "golden hands" and transforms their modest hut into a beautiful home, thereby building his way into her heart. But then war arrives to cut short their courtship, delay their marriage, and wreak havoc in their lives – even sending the young lovers far from home, to the promise of a new life in Krakow.

Nearly fifty years later, their granddaughter, Beata, repeats their postwar journey, seeking a new life in the fairy-tale city of her grandmother's stories. But instead of the whispered prosperity of the New Poland, she discovers a city caught between its future and its past. Taken in by her tough-talking cousin Irena and Irena's glamorous daughter Magda, Beata struggles to find her own place in 1990s Krakow and in the constellation of Irena and Magda's fierce love. But unexpected events – tragedies and miracles can change lives and open eyes. And Beata may just find a new way of seeing her family's and her country's history – as well as a vision for her own role in the New Poland.

Brigid, I see you are going to reunions - I'll bring my copy so that you can sign it!

Green cards!!

Nina McAdoo writes: “Recently added a new addition to the family: baby girl Caitlin Sydney McAdoo Savitt arrived January 15 (2009). She joins big brother Aidan James McAdoo Savitt who will be 6 in June. My husband Andy Savitt and I live in Tuckahoe, NY (NYC suburbs). I’m on maternity leave from KPMG LLP, the Big 4 accounting firm, where I’m Assistant General Counsel. My husband runs his own marketing and communications consulting business. Would love to hear from any long-lost ‘94s in the area (at nmcadoo@kpmg.com)” Congratulations, Nina!

Also in New York is **Robert McCarthy**: “I’m working at UBS O’Connor in the hedge fund business. From time to time I see **Gib Dunham** who has just had his second child, Rease.”

Moving out west, Justice **Michael Massengale** writes “I left Baker Botts, where I was a partner practicing

commercial litigation, to accept an appointment by Texas Governor Rick Perry to the Texas First Court of Appeals, based in Houston. The court is an intermediate state appeals court, hearing every kind of state appeals except death penalty cases. It is an elected position, so I will be standing for election in November 2010 in the 10 counties of our court’s jurisdiction.” Good luck this fall, Michael – I encourage everyone to check out the website at michaelfmassengale.com.

Tim Wetherill writes from New Mexico: “Have been in Santa Fe since 2005. I am a general surgeon/ trauma surgeon at CHRISTUS St. Vincent hospital. My wife Barbara and I love the area. We ski all winter at Santa Fe ski area with our 7 year old, Jackson. He has turned into a shredder, taking me into the trees and leaving me there to lick my wounds. We also have two pure bred Northern New Mexico mutts (Jenga and Koda), both rescues. Call, write, visit anytime (wetherillT@yahoo.com)

My Story

Note: I thought that it might be useful for some others in the class to hear about something other than celebrations in the class newsletter. This certainly has been the big news in my life this year – if you are bored by it, please skip it. Someone else might find a little something that helps them in their search.

Company X (which you may recall from past newsletters) was my first job out of college. I started as an auditor in Boston, then transferred to Luxembourg, then transferred to London (and the consulting practice). In May 2007, when Colin Plumridge was just a large bump in Jess’ belly, we moved back to Boston, with Zoë and Nathaniel.

Just over two years later, it became clear that the idea of having an investment management consulting practice in Boston was not going to take off in the teeth of the recession, I got laid off.

Company X, like the other Big 4 accounting firms, never seems to handle this process well. They sprung it on me in a regularly scheduled review meeting with my partner counsellor, on a Friday morning at the end of July. Having been around the block a couple of times, I knew it was bad when I got there and the HR representative was sitting in the room. What was particularly graceless, however, was that they only gave me to the end of the day to leave. Fifteen years, a ton of reasonably profitable client relationships, and I had 8 hours to pack up (hey, at least they didn’t escort me out of the building immediately!). Hey, they didn’t even warn the team I was working for – nothing like pitching a major proposal on Thursday, and then getting shown the door on Friday.

I gave myself Friday evening to be mad. It had to happen – all the frustration of the nights and weekends and special events sacrificed on the altar of client service. All the nights away from home, all the flight delays, all the airport meals. (My travel is written on the loyalty cards from the airlines and hotels: American Platinum, Delta Silver, Starwood Platinum, Marriott Platinum, Hilton Silver).

Saturday, I started running. I had always been meaning to get in shape, but the travel and the work never let it happen. I ran every other day from July through to November. I have to imagine that my interviewing had to be helped by being in better shape. Certainly I felt a bit better for it.

Sunday, I went and found our old copy of What Color is Your Parachute? When we had moved back to Boston, I had done some thinking about what I was looking for, and I actually interviewed at a few places. Nothing panned out, mostly because I was in London, and paying relocation wasn't high on people's list. But the good news was that I was not starting from scratch.

Books which helped

1. What Color is your Parachute?. Sometimes you need a road map in life – this book is the road map for finding a job.
2. 1421: The Year China Discovered America. If Chinese sailors could circumnavigate the globe in 1421, I can probably find a job.
3. Rage Against the Meshuganah. One man's struggle with depression, post 9/11 and post job loss. A tough subject, a funny funny book.
4. Desire of the Everlasting Hills. A historical evaluation of the world at the time of Jesus and the cultural underpinnings of his chroniclers by the author of How the Irish Saved Civilization. Again, it gives some perspective for my search for a job.
5. The Snowball: Warren Buffett and the Business of Life. It always good to know about mega-successes, and what they had to sacrifice to get there. This book focuses on how Buffett reached the pinnacle of business. To be honest, it won't be the route that I will follow.

I started my process by listing my resources:

- o My wife was supportive and willing to give me time and space to do what needed to be done.
- o I knew a lot of people in my chosen industry and city, and I had people who were willing to help.
- o Because Company X laid me off, the unemployment benefits were going to be coming in (and as the woman at the Unemployment office said, "Thanks to President Obama, you get an extra \$25 each week." Thanks, President Obama!)
- o I had transferable skills that I wanted to use.
- o I had been in the consulting world for 7 years, so getting out there and telling my story really wasn't that different from selling new business.
- o Six months of outplacement service, which included office space and resume assistance.

In some ways the summer is a very good time to be entering the ranks of the unemployed. The sun is out, and you know that people aren't going to be too busy or responsive before Labor Day. So I was able to take some time and pull together my goals, my target lists of companies, my network. I set a routine, and generally stuck to it (and it involved job hunting only 4 days a week). My kids, especially the two year old, got quite used to seeing me around. Although I would go to the outplacement service or interviews most days, they were

only open from 9 to 5, so I generally was home for dinner. Our oldest is only 6, so we didn't really let her in on why I was around so much – "Daddy is on a project at home."

While I have been pretty consistent in slagging Company X so far, it actually was the partners there who ended up being the most helpful. I don't know if it was guilt or genuine helpfulness, but they really opened their Rolodexes and their calendars to me. They were excellent references, and were amazing with the networking and the background information. You definitely find out who the good people are through this process.

Every company drew out the process – 18 interviews at a major bank which we won't name, and not less than 6 interviews anywhere. Nobody was willing to make a decision.

In the end, I had two job offers, and accepted one the day before Thanksgiving (you know, the day everyone in my extended family showed up at my house!). I started at State Street on December 7, and that is where I am now. I have to say that I am happier going to work now than I have been in years.

Some of the key lessons that I took away from this process:

- o You do get better at interviewing the more that you do it. My first interviews were pretty bad, in retrospect.
- o You always have to be on message – wishy-washy is not a core skill that any employer is looking for.
- o The elevator pitch is your friend – use it everywhere, and with everyone. You never know who will be the connection that gets you in the door.
- o LinkedIn is your friend. And your friends are on LinkedIn.
- o Routine is key (at least for me). Having a place to go every day kept things moving.
- o While you hope that this round of interviews will go well, you have to manage your search as though they won't – always have a pipeline going.
- o You might as well get a Starbucks card early on – you will be having coffee. Lots of coffee.
- o Take some time off, but only after you have started the process. I had some free nights to use in some very nice hotels, and getting away from home was a great thing at some of the most stressful times. (On a related note, Vermont is beautiful at the end of September).
- o Having a temporary office space is helpful too (I had a freebie from Regus offices, which turned out to be great, especially in the downtime between meetings.) \$300 is a small price to pay for a year of office access
- o People were amazingly helpful – so I am trying to be helpful to the people who call for advice. Feel free to reach out to me! (aplumridge@statestreet.com)

A selection of top (or bottom) interview questions

1. **What is your favorite TV show?** *I punted on this – I went with the Ken Burns series on the National Parks. And then said that Leverage was a guilty pleasure. If I were answering the question today, I would have to say Glee!*
2. **What is the difference between a leader and a manager?** *No good answer for this one – probably why I didn't get the job.*
3. **Tell me about yourself.** *So, you didn't read my resume, and you want to hear something that you can start the interview with.*
4. **Why do you want to work here?** *You think to your self "Your company has an opening, I have a mortgage and three kids." You reply "You are an industry leader, and I am really intrigued by some of the initiatives that you are going to be running in the coming years."*

Hello Fellow 94s!



Yes, it's gently creeping up on us... only three short months to go and we will be reuniting, 16 years older and wiser, once more in Hanover! Now, before you race off in haste to pack your overnight bags while humming the Salty Dog Rag, please stop to take note: reunion registration is exclusively **ONLINE** this year.

Registration began on March 1 so please go to our class website, www.dartmouth94.org and click on the link for reunion. On our class website you will also find a partial list of classmates who are planning on attending the reunion, as well as an updated list of kids' programs, DOC activities, and details on other reunion events. **Please note that you will not be able to sign up for dorm housing unless you have registered first...** so, in short, please register online!

Additionally, this will be the last written communication you will receive regarding reunions and, going forward, all communication will be by email. If you think we might not have your updated email, please email me at demetra.taleghani@gmail.com.

Reunion planners have been working very hard to make our reunion weekend fun for everyone from start to finish. There will be plenty of occasions involving food and beverages, so worry no more about your plans once you set (your registered) foot on the Green...you will be well cared for and entertained!

So please mark your calendars, June 18th-20th, and join us for a brief weekend to laugh and catch up with old friends – we hope to see you in June!

Demetra Navab Taleghani
Dartmouth Class of 1994, 15th Reunion Chair

Samantha Stoddard
Reunion Treasurer

Catherine Adams Stanzler
Publicity Chair

1994 Reunion Committee

Darcey Bartel
Laura Davis
Justine Fahey
Josh Heikkila
Ann Koppel
Kelly Bell Lytle
Frida Polli
Wendy Tamis

Confirmed Reunion attendees (as of 5/3/10)

Adams Stanzler	Haward	Pack
Adelman Gadel	Hieber	Pasulka
Alden	Irving	Peck
Anderson	Irwin	Peterson
Capone	Jacobs	Plumridge
Anderson	Jameson-Kelly	Polli
Azapian	Johnson	Richards
Babcock	Johnson	Richardson
Barefoot Herrick	Joseph	Rissmiller
Bartel	Kahl	Rocco
Bayer	Kinney	Rodgers
Beltramini	Kobal (Horner)	Rosenbaum
Bennett	Kopff	Ruckh
Berglund	Kopit	Sadrian
Bishko	Koppel	Schmidt
Borgmann	Kovas	Serotta
Bower	Krehbiel Ellsworth	Shaff
Branca	Krieg	Shulock
Brogan	Kunz	Silvernail
Budelsky	Lane	Smith
Bullitt	Lardner	Smitherman
Calhoun	Laughlin	Spayde
Cesnik	Lee	Staib
Choi	Lewis	Stoddard
Chu	Lindenfeld	Strazzini
Cloitre	Lipp	Swarr
Cook	Lockwood	Swenson
Costalas	Lukas	Swire
Crotty	Lytle	Taleghani
D'Orio	MacDonald	Tanenholz
Daily	Marton	Tessler
Davis	Matthews	Thomas
Hardegree Davis	McCarte Stone	Tiryaki
Dean	McCarthy	Trivers
DelCarmine	McCormick	Umscheid
DeLong	(McGinnes)	Way
DeWitt	Meyer	Wilczynski
Dirksen Archer	Mitre	Wilkerson
Eckels	Mortell	Wukasch
Eller	Naylor	Zimmermann
Fahey	Nevin Martin	Zug
Furr	Nicholas	Zwick
Gartner	Niehaus	
Gibney	Nielsen/Shinkle	(and hopefully you,
Gray	Norall	too!)
Hammar skjold	Nunnery	
Haskell	Olivier	

Class President's Update

Hello to my fellow Classmates,

I hope 2010 finds everyone well. It will be a very exciting and busy year for our class, with our **15th Reunion in Hanover**. Planning is coming along nicely and we will have a wonderful schedule of event and meals that will allow us all to reconnect with each other and the College.

I wanted to mention that the five year term for the officer team that has led our class since our last reunion will be expiring. We are in the process of preparing a slate of officers to run for our class executive offices. We need two things - (1) somebody to lead a **nominating committee** to find officers and (2) **people interested in serving our class in the following roles:**

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Newsletter Editor
- Mini Reunion Chair (best with two people)
- Executive Committee Members
- Webmaster

If you have an interest in serving on the nominating committee and/or as an officer for the next 5 years, please e-mail me directly.

I can't wait to see everyone in June!

For Dartmouth,

Ken Davis
kdavis@davisbeverage.com

**Top 10 reasons to become the 1994 Class Newsletter Editor
(with many apologies to David Letterman)**

10. Gives an outlet for creative expression, especially for those of us who work in non-creative fields (like auditing).
9. Prestigious invitation to Class Officer's weekend, with a free Saturday night stay in the Fireside Inn in West Leb.
8. Free copies of the newsletters from adjacent classes.
7. Bully pulpit, with a potential quarterly circulation of 1100.
6. Reconnect with your classmates
5. Two words: resume builder.
4. Probably the only thing I've ever written that will read by more than 20 people.
3. Invitations to Class Officer conference calls
2. Little green cards arrive in the mail, with news from old friends and classmates.
1. People know they have heard your name somewhere, but cannot remember where.

I'll miss doing it. But I have a new job, three young children, and I have just joined the board of the Dartmouth Educational Association, which makes loans to over 8% of Dartmouth undergraduates. It's time for someone else to have a chance – nominate yourself by sending an email to aplumridge@statestreet.com

All the best,
Andrew