Welcome Sophomore Families

Sophomore Family Weekend, July 28–30, is a proud Dartmouth tradition, giving sophomore students the chance to share the Dartmouth Experience with their families. The sophomore class hosts the event, which is organized by forty student volunteers and three staff members and celebrated by 1,700 guests, including many siblings under the age of twelve. Each year more and more families attend.

Students work hard preparing for the weekend, planning activities based on their parents’ and siblings’ interests. Student volunteers are picked by their peers on Class Council based on their interests in teamwork, leadership, and event planning.

On behalf of the Parents Fund, assistant director of student activities Mattie Stevens, and all our students, welcome.

Three Days, Thirty Events

Sophomore Family Weekend is a great opportunity to spend time as a family. We are planning more than thirty events over the course of three days, spanning the academic and social experience at the College, as well as providing a taste of life in the Upper Valley. Some favorite events include a bird’s-eye view of the campus from the Baker Bell Tower, a behind-the-scenes tour of Rauner Special Collections Library, and extraordinary exhibits in the Hood Museum of Art. Meet professors and administrators and enjoy the best the Upper Valley has to offer. We look forward to rolling out the green carpet for you!

You should have received your registration materials for Sophomore Family Weekend already. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at (603) 646-3399 or family.weekends@dartmouth.edu. For more information, please visit our website, http://www.dartmouth.edu/~sao/events/soph/.

Mattie Stevens
2008 Sophomore Family Weekend Coordinator
Interim Assistant Director of Student Activities

Sophomore Student Perspectives

I transferred to Dartmouth last year, and I continue to be amazed by the wealth of opportunities here.

One of the things that excites me most about Dartmouth is the wonderful faculty that I have encountered during my time here. Over the course of the year, I have had some truly inspirational professors. One of my main tasks as co-chair of Sophomore Family Weekend has been to organize an array of faculty presenters to give families an opportunity to get to know some of the remarkable professors at the College.

Experiences outside of the classroom have been an equally significant part of my life here in Hanover. Having spent my first year in college in an urban environment, I was skeptical of how I would be able to adjust to rural New Hampshire. But the energy of the Dartmouth campus has constantly impressed me. There are more activities and events on campus than I have ever been able to keep track of and more students groups than I could ever have imagined. Every quarter, I have found new interests, become involved in new activities, and grown in unforeseen ways. Dartmouth has already made a huge impact on my life.

For Sophomore Family Weekend, we’ve tried to build a diverse schedule that will give families a real taste of the Dartmouth Experience. Sophomore Summer is often dubbed the peak of every Dartmouth student’s college years. It is a wonderful time to visit Dartmouth. I hope to see you all this weekend.

Jonathan Gordon ‘08
Sophomore Family Weekend Co-Chair

Meet Other Dartmouth Families

http://parents.dartmouth.edu/dartmouth_families/index.html
Ten Ways to Think About Work

It’s not too early for your student to start thinking about life after Dartmouth. The Career Services Office encourages students to discover the work that suits them best. The following is adapted from an article that Career Services director Skip Sturman wrote for The Dartmouth to help students frame their planning for their coming job search.

The choice of an occupation remains one of life’s great mysteries. Somehow, after twenty-two years of “seemingly unprofitable meandering” (to use John Gardner’s phrase), upon graduation one is suddenly expected to chart a clear course for the future. Well-meaning parents and relatives often complicate matters by trying to spur things along, forgetting or repressing the confusion that surrounded their own career choices many years ago.

So how should you think about work, besides endlessly or not at all? As both a parent and a career counselor, I would encourage you to think about it:

- **SELFISHLY** Your work is really your own choice. You should be seeking your own pleasure and indulging your own passions when it comes to finding a job. There is little point in satisfying others at the price of your own misery.

- **RESPECTFULLY** Having counseled yourself to find your own path, you must still acknowledge the enormous investment that others, particularly parents, have made in your education. Often they have invested their savings and hopes and dreams in your choice of an occupation. Listen to their advice and counsel.

- **PURPOSEFULLY** As you think about work, you should identify at least five baseline needs that have to be met in order for you to be happy. Though you are not making a lifetime decision nor an irrevocable one—expect to hold as many as six to ten jobs in the course of your career—you still owe it to yourself to make your initial choice purposefully, based on a careful assessment of your strengths and weaknesses.

- **HONESTLY** It does little good for you to sell yourself and others a bill of goods. No one else can determine for you what is important to you. If making gobs of money is your sine qua non, go for it. If prestige or name recognition means a great deal to you, admit that to yourself. But do recognize that there really is no such thing as an Ivy League of Work.

- **REALISTICALLY** The vagaries of the job market may make it impossible for you to find work straight out of college that meets all your needs. Think long and hard about which needs—be it for high income or varied tasks or significant responsibility—you can compromise in the short term or achieve better outside the workplace.

- **OPPORTUNISTICALLY** As hockey great Wayne Gretzky is purported to have said, “Skate to where the puck is going, not where it is.” Don’t limit your horizons to the job market just out of view. There is no sense in ignoring the vast constellation of emerging opportunities represented on campus while concentrating all of your talents and energies in pursuit of the highly visible opportunities represented on campus while ignoring the vast constellation of emerging career opportunities just out of view.

- **SHORTSIGHTEDLY** There is no sense in focusing on distant objects when the work you choose post-graduation is likely to be of short duration. Be prepared, as most alumni have discovered, for a series of zig and zags, chutes and ladders, that will lead you by circuitous routes to unanticipated destinations. By all means, determine a lifetime goal because, to quote a book title, “If you don’t know where you are going, you will probably end up somewhere else.” Just be prepared to end up somewhere else regardless.

- **HUMBLY** In thinking about work, remember former Israeli prime minister Golda Meir’s words of wisdom: “Don’t be so humble, you are not that great.” With all due respect to the prime minister, you are that great but you will inevitably be humbled during the job search process. Think about work as the equivalent of running a gauntlet: know that in the end you will emerge triumphant if you just manage to stay on your feet and keep moving forward.

- **COMPASSIONATELY** Not everyone has to become Mother Teresa, but work gives everyone the opportunity to be a force for positive change. As Ben Cohen (of Ben and Jerry’s fame) once exhorted people in my profession: “Let’s expose the myth that a business cannot afford to care about the community and be profitable at the same time. Let’s show our students what is possible and let them demand that the companies that they work for integrate the needs of the community into their business practices.”

- **JOYOUSLY** Finally, think about work joyously. As the bumper sticker says, “If it’s not fun, why do it?” By Skip Sturman

Director of Career Services at the College