

DARTMOUTH  
CLASS OF 1953



## NEWSLETTER

*News & Events for our Class*



Dear Classmates and Families,

Here is our latest newsletter to pass on news of our classmates and their families. These are the difficult times when so many of us are passing on but there is comfort in sharing our stories with one another and to stay in touch with families at their pleasure.

2021 VERSION

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***H E R E I S A F A S C I N A T I N G A N D I N C I S I V E S E T O F  
T T H O U G H T S O N T H E S I T U A T I O N I N T H E U K R A I N E A N D  
R U S S I A B Y P E T E R B R I D G E S , T H E M O S T E X P E R I E N C E D  
F O R E I G N S E R V I C E O F F I C I A L I N O U R C L A S S , I N C L U D I N G  
A N A M B A S S A D O R S H I P T O S O M A L I A A S W E L L A S T I M E  
I N T H E M O S C O W E M B A S S Y . Y O U W I L L E N J O Y A N D  
L E A R N A B O U T T H E C R I T I C A L I T Y O F T H I S S I T U A T I O N  
. F R O M T H E F U L L P E R S P E C T I V E D E S C R I B E D B Y P E T E R .***

**Dave,**

**You asked my thoughts on Ukraine and Russia. They are worrisome thoughts. Share them with classmates now, if you like; no need to wait until June.**

**Russia is a big and nuclear-armed nation, and Russians are fearful. They are taught to remember the three times they have been invaded—by the Mongols in the 1200s, Napoleon in 1812, and Hitler in 1941. Their leaders have played on their fears dearly, as Stalin did and as Putin is doing now.**

**Russians also knows that Kiev was the center of the first Russian state. But the center of the Russian state has been Moscow since the 1300s—and after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia acknowledged Ukraine as an independent state. It is true that there are linguistic and ethnic divisions in Ukraine as there are in other**

**countries: Britain, France, Italy, Spain, Iraq, Iran, India, China, USA...to name a few.**

**Can Putin lose the domestic support he needs? I don't know. He has not, for now, achieved an airtight police state, but opposition figures are jailed or else are emigrating. Putin has got to go, but when and how?**

**Can Russia overcome a century-long tradition of state-directed propagandizing that leaves the Russian public deliberately misinformed and liable to manipulation? Doubtful, to say the least.**

**The ultimate solution has got to be a new post-Putin security arrangement that Russia is a part of. I know it sounds like pie in the sky. For now Russia is conducting aggressive war with actions the world has outlawed, and we and the rest of NATO (and some others, too) are justifiably helping Ukraine. I hope we do not tire of doing so. I also hope that we make it clear that we are helping Ukraine but are not, ourselves, fighting Russia. Ukraine has the status of a NATO "partner," as do other countries, but it is not a NATO member and we need to avoid giving Putin any excuse for saying this is a NATO-Russia war. Should Sweden and Finland join NATO? Up to them, I'd say.**

**These are my rough thoughts and your questions are welcome. Regards to the Class and families who have**

**contributed so much to the health and welfare of America.**

**Many thanks Peter and should you have some additional comments as the war progresses, we can forward your notes to me which I can email to the class without waiting for the next newsletter slot.**

**Pictures tell stories where words cannot describe them and a quick way to tap the memory quad of the class is a picture we had of our first Zoon meeting in 2021 organized by the tireless Ron Lazar. Title for the picture is "53 Classmates Thru the Tube,"**

**The Tube View is on the next page and we challenge the class to feed back the names of each of the handsome video images on the Tube Portrait. Winner will get a picture of their choice in the next letter. Cheers and here comes the 53 Tube., Can you name these now TB personalities? Always knew they would make Stardom.**



**SOME NEWS ON THE PERSONAL SIDE IF YOU PLEASE.**

**Sean Halloran, age 21, is one of my grandsons as well my baptismal boy, and he has become an outstanding college basketball player and now asst. coach, in his**

**four years at Belmont Abbey College near Chorlotte from which he just graduated Cum Laude in Digital Transgressions. Starting this summer, Sean will pursue his MBA at Elon University in Greensboro while also serving as their assistant basketball coach to the head coach who was his high school coach here in Orlando.**

**Sean has already been cited as one of the most progressive of basketball stars with a focus on court strategy that reminds me of my Navy days long ago as a fighter and close air support pilot and strategist, We brag about him as any grandparent would, but his special accomplishment is that he spends his spare time teaching all the kids and students the art and technique that took him to All Carolina and Honorable Mention All American. Even growing up when he visited us frequently in the Spring Valley House just north of Orlando, where our lake front also opened up to a sports park with everything including g two basketball courts, and there was my Sean out there teaching those kids the game. They have named to court after him. My dad, class of '19, played basketball at Dartmouth when they had a mid court jump aft ere ac basket and my spiritual senses tell me Dad is really enjoying all this as am I. Today, one could label Sean's type of basketball as 5G Basketball. Tis exciting.**



**Please send us your news and include your family and grandkids and great grand kids as in 53, we are all FAMILY. Here is a ditty following that is funny and a little bit naughty. Dave the Knave, Slave of the Cave.**



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