

Dear Classmates and Families,

we all will recall that special time when President Dwight Eisenhower spoke to us on June 13th, 1953, that fabulous graduation day. The Rockefeller Center has captured the essence of that message on their site in which Ike captured the thinking of the country, perhaps the world, in his famous comment “Don’t Join the Book Burners” as his admonition to read about the opposition in order to counter them.



We have included the essence of the report on the Rockefeller site and are sending the computer reference to the Rockefeller site for you this 70th Reunion time, whether you will be in Hanover or not, to remind you of the historic aspect of that time that was prompted by President Eisenhower’s generous comments about Dartmouth and the experience we all had three ae students and when he smiled with affection at the presentation of the Senior Cane by our Class President he became a part of this Dartmouth class forever and will always be remembered for that great day with us. And we have a film of that whole weekend that he spent with the Great Class of 1953 should you like the film reference as well.

General Eisenhower’s leadership in WWII and its aftermath, his deterrence of nuclear threats by unique strategies, his resolution of the enormous migrant problem grown during WWII, and his genuine love for the American people and especially students, place him clearly in our history as one of our greatest presidents. God blessed us Ike, and we thank you with all of our hearts forever.

The Dartmouth Class of 1953 at their 70th Reunion

dhalloran@cfl.rr.com

Don't Join the Book Burners:

Eisenhower at Dartmouth, 1953

Monday, September 11, 2023

4:00pm - 5:15pm

Henman Forum, Rockefeller Center

Sponsored by: Rockefeller Center

Intended Audience(s): Public

CATEGORIES:

**VENUE CHANGE: This event takes place in Henman Forum.

Livestream: <https://dartgo.org/eisenhower>

Speaker: **William Hitchcock**
James Madison Prof. of History, Univ. of Virginia

Host: **Jason Barabbas '93**
Director, Rockefeller Center
Professor of Govt.

Special

Guest Host: **Richard Cahn '53**

Moderator: **Edward Miller**
Chair, Dept. of Asian Societies, Cultures, & Languages
Assoc. Prof. of History & Asian Studies

Lecture: Did President Eisenhower do enough to confront Sen. Joseph McCarthy during the “red scare” of the 1950s? Many of his critics think Ike was too cautious in his handling of the Wisconsin demagogue. But Eisenhower did have a strategy: avoid direct confrontation, move quietly behind the scenes, and try to discredit McCarthy. One of the most important moments in Eisenhower’s stealth campaign against McCarthy unfolded in Hanover during the commencement exercise of 1953. This talk will illuminate the context behind Eisenhower’s famous phrase from his Dartmouth address: “Don’t join the book burners!”

Speaker: William I. Hitchcock is the James Madison Prof. of History at UVA. He has written and edited numerous books on the politics and diplomacy of the 20th Century, in particular the era of the world wars and the Cold War. He received his B.A. degree from Kenyon College in 1986, and his Ph.D. from Yale Univ. in 1994. He has been a Fulbright scholar, a fellow of the Nobel Institute in Oslo, and the holder of the Henry Kissinger Chair at the Library of Congress.

His 2008 book, *The Bitter Road to Freedom: A New History of the Liberation of Europe*, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and a winner of the George Louis Beer Prize from the American Historical Assoc. His most recent book, published in 2018, is *The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950s*, which appeared on the New York Times bestseller list.

Host: Dr. Jason Barabbas '93 is the Director of the Rockefeller Ctr. and a Prof. in the Govt Dept. Barabbas teaches and conducts research on American politics in the areas of political knowledge, deliberation, public policy, and democratic performance. His findings have been published in journals including the *American Political Science Review*, the *American Journal of Political Science*, and the *Journal of Politics*. Barabbas earned his Ph.D. in Political Sci. from Northwestern Univ. and his undergraduate degree in Govt. from Dartmouth College. After graduating, Barabbas was appointed as an economic policy advisor for the Governor of Illinois, which fostered an appreciation for retail politics as well as pragmatic solutions to policy problems. In the years since, he has held fellowships at Harvard and Princeton as well as faculty positions in NY, FL, and IL.

Moderator: Edward Miller is a historian, teacher, and digital humanist. His research and teaching focus on Modern Vietnam, the Vietnam War, and oral history. His scholarship explores the international and transnational dimensions of the Vietnam War and is based on research in archives in Vietnam, Europe, and the U.S. His publications include *Misalliance: Ngo Dinh Diem, the United States, and the Fate of South Vietnam* (Harvard, 2013) and *The Vietnam War: A Documentary Reader* (Wiley, 2016).

Professor Miller is at work on a book-length study of the Vietnam War in the Mekong Delta that re-interprets the conflict there as a civil war. That study draws on archival sources, interviews, and other materials collected in both the U.S. and Vietnam. Prof. Miller is co-editing a volume of the forthcoming Cambridge History of the Vietnam War.

For more information, contact:

Joanne Blaise

joanne.r.blais@dartmouth.edu