2019 Granger Award for Lifetime Achievement in Public Service

The Award was presented on January 31, 2019 by Evelynn Ellis, Dartmouth Vice President for Institutional Diversity & Equity, to the Class of 1959 and to Karl Holtzschue and Michael Stern as founders for creating and supporting Dartmouth Partners in Community Service (DPCS). Class President Doug Wise '59 accepted the Award. Ms. Ellis asked members of the Class of 1959 to stand up [nine did]. The following are my remarks as a panelist (Karl Holtzschue '59):

The phrase "lifetime achievement" reminds me of Professor Al Foley's Vermont humor story in the 1950s of the New Yorker who said to an old timer rocking on the porch of his farmhouse: "You have a beautiful place here. Have you lived here all your life?" The old timer paused and rocked and said in his Vermont accent: "Not yet."

Here's some background on DPCS. Michael Stern '59 suggested the idea for the program to our class for our 35th Reunion in 1995, having heard that the Princeton Class of 1955 started a public service program at their 35th Reunion to help alumni "give back". The project was approved by our Class Executive Committee in 1993 and I volunteered to act as President of the Alumni Board of what I called Dartmouth Partners in Community Service. The partners are the College, the alumni, the students and community service organizations.

I recognized that we were unlikely to be able to fund an independent nonprofit organization as Princeton had, so I approached representatives of the College. Over the next year and a half we had numerous discussions: Career Services described the program as a "win-win"; the Tucker Foundation drafted a list of three pros and three cons. I finally contacted Cary Clark, Counsel to the College, on a lawyer-to-lawyer basis, and he was particularly helpful in obtaining College approval for the program to be housed at the Tucker Foundation. At first, Alumni Relations was concerned that raising money for DPCS would have a negative impact on Class fund-raising, but DPCS was so well received by our Class that our fund-raising for the College actually grew and more classmates became involved. This is all described in detail in my essay "DPCS: The First Ten Years," which is on the DPCS website.

Over the past 24 years, DPCS has raised an endowment of over $1,000,000. We also realized that we needed to engage other classes so that DPCS would last beyond the Class of 1959, so we have added 20 other supporting classes, representing a huge number of alumni. To date, over 800 students and 800 alumni mentors have participated in ten-week leave-term internships around the country with Community Service Organizations serving the underserved, such as Harlem Children's Zone, East Harlem School, Children's Aid Society and A Better Chance. 44 of my classmates and 2 spouses have mentored 172 interns in 20 states, from Alaska to Florida and California to New York and New England, an amazing record!

I hope that this Award will help inform students, alumni and the College administration of the wonderful opportunities for service that DPCS has provided, and will continue to provide for years to come, to students, alumni and the College.

Thank you for this Award. This has been a great experience for me and my classmates, who are now each over 80 years old. But are we done with community service? NOT YET!