

# Happy New Year!

from the  
Dissipated Eight Alumni Association

Dear Alumnus,

Aught-seven promises to be a banner year for the D8AA, if for no other reason than the celebration of the D8's 55<sup>th</sup> birthday! Official invites will be sent out later in the year, but do yourself a favor and mark your calendar now:

## D8 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion October 26 – 28, 2007 Middlebury, VT

We're all looking forward to a raucous weekend this fall, and we expect a healthy turnout. However there's still work to be done before we celebrate. In case you have not yet heard the good news, Middlebury College, citing "good fundraising efforts by the D8AA in past years", has granted our Dissipated Eight Alumni Fund full endowment. Yes, we are now officially *well-endowed*! The fund will accrue interest at 5% annually, which we may draw upon to fund any D8AA-related activity or cause. Any unused interest will be reinvested.

While this is a milestone for our Association and the fruit of many years of hard work, it must be noted that the College granted us endowment under the good faith that we will continue to try to reach the agreed upon \$50,000 level. Together with our venerable Board, we have decided to do them one better. This shock and awe campaign will be implemented under the codename:

## “55 for 55”

It is our goal to grow our Fund to a level of **\$55,000** by the time of our 55<sup>th</sup> reunion this fall. Although this may seem an overly ambitious goal considering our sluggish track record, the recent trend of generosity speaks for itself:

In September, our fund was endowed at \$35k. We announced the good news and our new fundraising goal at the annual mini-Reunion Weekend in mid-October (see photos at d8alumni.com). Since that time, the donations have been rolling in (Anonymous donor: \$2500 + \$2500 matching gift; Dicky Riegel '88: \$2500; Mint Dole '56, Don Hindman '87, Mike Campbell '89, Keith Pennell '89, Trevor Moran '93: \$1000 each; plus numerous others). At last count, we now stand at over \$47,000.

<b>September '06</b>	→	<b>January '07</b>	→	<b>October '07 (55<sup>th</sup> Reunion)</b>
<b>\$35, 000</b>		<b>\$47,500</b>		<b>\$???,???</b>

As you can see, our “55 for 55” goal is well within our reach. But now we'd like to challenge the rest of you to step up to the plate. Hopefully a handful of you will decide to match the generosity of Anon, Dicky, Mint, Hany, Smokey, Keith and Trevor. For everyone else, let's go for a power in numbers approach. Think of it – if every person receiving this mailing donates just \$50 each, that alone will put us over our \$55k goal!

(over)

## ***Why*** should I donate?

- For the first time in the D8AA's history, every contribution that is made to the fund will create an immediate 5% return that we can access to help fund events/reunions and support the current group.
- The beauty of having a fund at Middlebury College is that your donation to the D8 Alumni Fund is tax-exempt.
- Your usual donation to the College can be earmarked for the D8 Alumni Fund and still count towards any participation or matching program that the College may be offering.
- Does your employer offer a gift-matching program? If so, why not take advantage of it?
- And remember, our **Presidential Challenge** still stands: if we reach \$55k by the time of the 55<sup>th</sup>, your co-presidents will arrive at reunion in full drag attire!

## ***How*** should I donate?

- **Make credit card donation online** by going to our website ([www.d8alumni.com](http://www.d8alumni.com)) and click "Donate Now." Or visit the College's website ([www.middlebury.edu/supporting](http://www.middlebury.edu/supporting)). Under the Designated Annual Fund section, enter "D8 Alumni Fund" in the "Other" field. This will earmark your donation.
- **Call the toll free number 888-367-6433** and make a donation over the phone. Remember to specify that your donation is to be earmarked for the D8 Alumni Fund.
- **Make a check** out to "Middlebury College" (write "D8 Alumni Fund" in the memo section) and send to:

Gift Administration Office  
Middlebury College  
Old Court House  
5 Court Street  
Middlebury, VT 05753-6229

We also encourage everyone (especially the younger generation of D8 Alumni and current D8 members) to reach out to parents, friends, family; anyone who has been a fan over the years and may want to give back to the Dissipated 8.

Your contribution, whether large or small, will help secure the future of our Association for years to come. As always, feel free to call or email us with questions, concerns, suggestions or late-night shenanigans. We thank you in advance for your support, and we look forward to toasting our achievement with you in October.

Regards,

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