

Message from Sterly L. Wilder

The Year That Was, and Will Be

Your “family” here at Forlines House wish you the happiest of holidays and many successes in 2010! We’ve seen an amazing number of alumni come back to campus this year or engaging with the Duke Alumni Association (DAA) through regional and online programs.

For example, Homecoming in September, despite the rain, was a record-breaker for attendance: nearly 2,100, including the Half Century Club and young alumni, attended. The ever-popular President’s Dance on Friday drew 3,000 students—an impressive number by any standard!

On the national front, [The Duke Idea](#), a meeting of the minds in which President Brodhead interviews university and alumni leaders at various venues, continues into 2010, with events in Los Angeles on January 26 and in Atlanta on March 16. So far, attendance has totaled 797 for the Charlotte, Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia events. Next year, look for President Brodhead to be speaking at local receptions, in Jacksonville, Florida, on February 18 and in Cincinnati on April 8.

We are proud to report on the various successes in the 20 cities that celebrated Duke Alums Engage Week in late October through early November. This new civic engagement project, which includes a service-learning component, brought together nearly 600 alumni and family members to tackle world hunger, to better education, to help the environment, and to meet the basic needs of families in local communities. For a brief video that summarizes this inaugural program of the best in Blue Devil community service, click [here](#).

February 26-27, Duke in Depth offers an alumnae weekend, “Money, Sex & Power,” that will feature Duke graduates, faculty, and other experts taking part in three concurrent tracts: Finding Your Personal Power, Developing the Power of Connections, and Exercising Your Power in the World. The keynote speaker is Lisa Belkin P ’13, an author and a columnist for *The New York Times*, whose son is a Duke freshman. Registration begins in January. For more information, visit www.dukeindepth.com.

Reunions Weekend is on the horizon, April 16-18, so take a look at a new video at www.dukereunions.com created by Wil Weldon ’96, who teaches in the Film & Video program at Duke. The featured narrator is President Brodhead, and it’s well worth watching, even if you’re not celebrating your class reunion this year.

We urge you to get interactive now that DukeReads, your online book club, is state of the art for viewing on Duke’s streaming channel. The sound and images are great, and you can ask questions before or during sessions with Twitter, Facebook, or email. Check out www.dukereads.com. (Reynolds Price ’55 is online January 19!) And you’ll want to take a look at Office Hours at www.ustream.com/dukeuniversity, which features Duke professors speaking—and taking questions—every Friday at noon (when school’s in session). This is a new online feature is co-sponsored by the DAA and Duke News & Communications. So far, the number of participants logging in to DukeReads and Office Hours represents another success that we hope you will help us maintain throughout 2010.

I hope you’ll become engaged with DAA programs in your region, you’ll stay connected through our website and affinity networks, and that you’ll come home to celebrate. We have lots of fascinating programs and events lined up just for you! Stay tuned to www.dukealumni.com for more on DAA events and to learn how you can become more involved.

Forever Duke,

Sterly L. Wilder ’83
Associate Vice President for Alumni Affairs