

DAM Column Submission – February 28, 2009
Dartmouth Class of 1990
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It is tough to start this column with sad news, but I must inform you of the passing this past January of our classmate Kimberly Lee Adamson from a lengthy battle with breast cancer. Our next column will share some thoughts on Kimberly's life and legacy. Meanwhile, our deepest thoughts and prayers go out to Kimberly's husband Paul and her loved ones.

On January 20, 2009, Jay Davis travelled to Washington, D.C. to witness history and share in our nation's transition of power. I asked Jay, who works at Dartmouth in the Education Department and at the Tucker Foundation, to share some thoughts from President Obama's Inauguration. He writes, "Here are some images: flying to DC from an educational conference in Houston, sitting next to a woman taught Freshman Writing by Toni Morrison at a black college in Houston before joining the first group of African-Americans to integrate the University of Texas in 1957 (where she was literally ignored by a professor when she went into his office hours her first semester) ... sleeping on a couch in the office of my brother (Kevin '94) in the Legislative Counsel wing of the Senate building ... spending the better part of a day in physical contact with strangers (not my issue if that phrase reminds some of you of your college experience) ... marveling over and over and over again at the pervasive and patient joy of a mass of humanity denied almost all comforts, a crowd of well over a million frozen, bladder-filled, purple-gate denied, human gridlocked people, not ONE of whom was arrested all day ... thrilling to the insistent (if not organized -- these were mainly democrats after all) sound of hundreds of thousands of people singing a fervent, and vaguely unbelieving, "Hey, Hey, Hey, Good Bye" to the helicopter that circled the Mall one last time before heading for a Texas-bound plane ... immersing in conversation with an Afghani man who emigrated during the Soviet invasion, then meeting his daughter who "goes to school in NH" (an '11 whom I immediately conscripted for the SEAD program this summer) ... watching strangers physically and figuratively embrace across race and class, starting conversations, sharing aspirations, admitting the anxiety that accompanied the acceptance of hope ... sitting with my mother that evening in front of TV, tears streaming ridiculously down our faces as Beyonce sang to the first couple ... standing in line for over an hour (ten seconds usually pains me deeply) at 6:30 the next morning in a BWI gift shop with 75 impossibly content people, stocking up on such necessities as Obama action dolls and mouse pads ... sitting on a Southwest plane next to three members of Sweet Honey in the Rock, on their way to Hanover to sing a concert resonant with transcendent harmonies ...thinking constantly of my two-year old, who may very well go for many years without knowing that presidents are actually allowed to be white ... feeling a new-found patriotism that wore comfortably, and still does." What indelible memories for Jay to share with his wife Julie (Sanders '91) and their children Andrew and Katie!

Shockingly, by the time your read this, our 20th Reunion will be celebrated a few months away on June 19-21, 2009. Please see our class website (www.dartmouth90.org) for links to the Registration page or you can register directly at www.alumni.dartmouth.edu/reunions. We hope to see all of you there!