HUGE THANKS goes to Dartmouth Dining for hosting this week’s annual community barbeque to kick off the academic year. On Monday they served 1,399 meals for breakfast, 4,403 for lunch, and 2,818 for dinner. As Chef Ron Moore said, "That’s 8,620!!! Slamming!!!" Thanks also to the Grounds crew for setting up and taking down all the tables and chairs for the barbeque lunch. It was wonderful to see the Green buzzing with enthusiasm and student energy.

Teamwork: What We Do Best

One of the best qualities of Campus Services employees is the willingness to help one another. All one needs to do is ask. Such was the case last week when Director of DPMS (Dartmouth Print and Mail Services) Monica Godfrey notified her manager that Hinman Mail and DPMS would be significantly short-staffed during the first few weeks of the term. Monica’s manager, COO Julie Findley, jumped into gear and asked her Campus Services Operations staff —most of whom are working from home—to volunteer for 2-4-hour shifts.

Most of the additional labor is helping out in Hinman Mail where over 2,000 packages/day are coming in. Volunteers are sorting letter mail and scanning packages and placing them, depending on their size, into various storage lockers. When students arrive, the packages are scanned again and retrieved from their locker location. The volume and size of packages is so great that Hinman has six trailers located in their back parking lot to store large items such as futons, bicycles, and refrigerators. Even UPS is renting UHaul trucks to deliver packages to the Hinman Mail Center.

Monica anticipates this heightened level of activity to continue through Sept. and is incredibly grateful for the additional help. Thanks to DPMS and Hinman employees and all who are lending a hand.

An Event of Interest?

This fall the Dartmouth Energy Collaborative (DEC) is holding an on-line seminar series called "Building a Resilient, Sustainable Future: Perspectives on Buildings and Energy." This series "explores the impact, challenges, and opportunities that the construction and operation of the built environment presents for a warming world."

The first of five sessions will be held on Tues., Sept. 21 from 12:15 to 1:15pm. Dartmouth Sustainability Director Rosi Kerr will look at the energy landscape of the Dartmouth campus with a talk called: "Dartmouth: Where We Are, Where We’re Going." Learn more and register at dartgo.org/EnergySeminars.

The Grounds Crew

Dartmouth College is known for its natural beauty and sense of place. Maintaining the beauty of the campus, though, takes alot of work. It is thanks to our Grounds employees for their day-to-day dedication that Dartmouth’s green spaces, playing fields, roads and pathways are cared for so well. Assoc. Director of FO&M Tim McNamara describes the Grounds Shop work in the following narrative.

"Their responsibilities include:

- Maintenance of turf on the main campus, athletic fields and several off-campus properties
- Maintenance of campus trees, shrubs and planting beds, including planting, weeding, and pruning
- Maintenance and minor repairs to drainage structures
- General labor needs such as moving furniture and assisting with events
- Collection of all trash and recycled materials around campus 7 days/week
- Maintenance of College-owned trucks, vans, cars, and equipment such as tractors and snowplows
- Removing snow and ice from all campus sidewalks and most campus roads and parking lots

At full staffing, we have between 32 and 34 employees led by Grounds Supervisor Greg Frost. In addition to equipment operators, we have certified arborists, turf specialists, shrub experts, and mechanics.

Work performed by the Grounds staff varies from season to season and from day to day. They respond to a variety of work orders in any given week, and the workload goes up and down depending on the season and on the number of events occurring. Commencement and Reunions are a particularly busy time, with all hand on deck to support these events. Winter can also be challenging, particularly when there are back-to-back snowstorms, often occurring at night and on weekends. The work is anything but routine."

Please recognize these employees with a wave and shout of thanks when you see them around campus.