

*“With each new administration it’s like getting a new job.”*

# LOOK WHO’S TALKING

➤ TINA OVERMAN, *Secretary to the President’s Special Assistant*



## **How long have you worked here?**

I started working at Tuck in 1971. I was just going to work to pay off my school loans, but I never got away. I actually have a 100-year history with the College—I grew up in Hanover, and my grandfather graduated in 1910. I’ve also had several family members attend.

## **You moved on to Parkhurst, where you’ve worked in the president’s office for five administrations. What’s that been like?**

Every president is different, but what has remained constant is that each one has loved the College and wanted what’s best for Dartmouth.

## **Do unexpected visitors ever show up at the president’s office?**

You never know what it’s going to be when you answer the phone or someone walks through the door. The other day a group of kids came in on a scavenger hunt. In the 1980s students took over the building. I just went to work as usual—we stepped over people and found lots of pizza boxes in the morning.

## **Are there any particularly hectic times?**

It’s always steadily hectic. There really aren’t many quiet times. But it’s fun and I like the fast pace. You have to shift and adapt. Every day is a little different.

## **What’s the best way to lobby a president?**

Be succinct. When you want something, don’t send a three-page letter. Go to office hours. President Hanlon holds his on Tuesdays between 4 and 5 p.m. We have a very good turnout. Sometimes people show up at 3 p.m. and ask if they can just wait.

## **Have you gotten to know the presidents’ families?**

Yes, and I’ve enjoyed meeting all of them. Mocha and Cassie, the Hanlon dogs, haven’t come into the office yet.

## **What keeps the presidents going?**

Most of the presidents have been coffee drinkers. I think some of them need a coffee IV. Lots of coffee!

—*Rianna P. Starheim '14*