



2010 – 2011 Women's Golf Team Elaine Lin '12; Nina Yoo '12; Liz Monty '13; Sooji Choi '14; Kristen Lee '14; Coach Jim Plumer; Minjeong Koo '14; Hayley Milbourn '11; Jordan Chafetz '11; Irene Hickey '13; Coach Michelle Morgan

brothers. Now in its 34th year of competition (formerly under the excellent tutelage of Coach Tracy Mehr), the program attracts players who have extensive tournament experience prior to entering Amherst. Earning a spot in the top five has become more competitive and it is not unusual to see many scoreboards with most tournament scores in the 70's and low 80's. Often the fifth player's tournament scores factor into team score. The program has always been successful, most notably the 1990 team that won the NGCA Championship and the 2002 team that finished third in the NCAA Division III National Golf Championship. But more importantly, the program has developed over the span of 34 years with strong women and successful leaders who have used the game and its lessons in so many areas of their professional and personal lives. It has been sheer joy for me to coach players who are passionate about the game and who have respect for what the game teaches. Thank you to all who have taught me much about the game and have helped me become a better coach and person.

Date	Tournament
Sept. 17-18	NYU Invitational
Sept. 24-25	Mt. Holyoke Invitational
Oct. 1-2	Middlebury Invitational
Oct. 8-9	Williams Fall Classic
Oct. 15-16	Wellesley Invitational
Mar. 23-25	Jekyll Island Invitational
Apr. 14-15	Vassar Invitational
Apr. 21-22	Jack Leaman
Apr. 28-29	Williams Invitational
May 9-12	NCAA Division III Championship Angola, Indiana

A MESSAGE FROM
Michelle Morgan
Women's Golf
Coach



As I begin my 22nd year as coach of the women's golf team I have been reflecting on the evolution of junior golf for young girls. I recall many stories from alums about what influenced them to become competitive golfers. Most began playing because of their father or grandfathers. I myself began playing at age 12 because my father wanted me to stop playing tackle football with my

Meet the Captains



Elaine Lin '12

Elaine has been one of Amherst's most accomplished golfers since 2008. In her debut season she led the field after day one of the Jack Leaman Championship and finished third overall, also tying for the team's lowest score at Wellesley. As a sophomore she recorded one of the team's three lowest scores in seven tournaments, notably leading the Jeffs at Wellesley by placing fourth overall. Her success continued last year as she carded the team's second lowest score in four of her first five events, putting in three rounds below 80 along the way.



Laura Monty '12

Laura burst onto the scene back in 2008 with a dominant rookie campaign. She finished the 2008-09 season with one of

Amherst's two lowest scores on five occasions, including the NCAA Championships. Her sophomore season was highlighted by a fifth-place finish at the George Fox Invitational, where she shot a 74 on day two in order to move up with the front of the pack. Last year Monty spent the fall season abroad but began to return to form by the end of the year, closing out her junior season with an 80 on the second day of the Williams Invitational.

Both Elaine and Laura just completed the captains' LEADS program designed to better prepare them for their "definitive leadership role." They are successfully underway to be the team leaders this season.



Dartmouth Invitational 2010

Meet the First Year



Katherine Britt comes to the team from Arlington, Mass., and will bring an outstanding energy to the group. Coach Morgan states: "Katherine will become a major scorer at some point, but I'm particularly excited about the attitude she brings to the team. Our dynamic is going to be key this year."



Seniors: Elaine Lin, Nina Yoo, Laura Monty



Amherst Golf Course

A Note From an Alumna



This weekend my younger brother was dropped off at Amherst to start his senior year. It reminded me of the summer eleven years ago when I first set foot on the Amherst golf course and met Coach Morgan in the little clubhouse. I liked her right away because she commented that my handshake was much stronger than my younger sister's. That summer my sister had started out-driving me and even out-scoring me in tournaments. It frustrated me to no end, and made for some very long car-rides home. So at least I had the muscular handshake going for me, I thought.

Ben Hogan would not have approved of me coveting the tee-shots of my sister and her fellow long-ball hitters. My golf game was consistent and dependable, with a solid short game. But I secretly dreamed of being able to drive the ball a mile, and found my game somewhat inadequate. Deep down, I identified with Hogan's strong will and his famous quote regarding how he found his swing, "[you] dig it out of the dirt." I might have showed up to school with a swing and a manner of playing, but what I had to dig out of the dirt was a belief that that swing and manner were good enough. I was

struck by Monica Romano's letter in the July 2010 newsletter when she said that golf gave her entry into Amherst and Amherst gave her entry into life. I feel the same way.

At Amherst, I finally got to play on a women's team after spending four years as the only girl on the men's team in high school. I didn't realize what I'd been missing until the women's fall season started and the team embarked on long weekend journeys across New England on the NESCAC tournament circuit. In long underwear and head-to-toe Gore-tex, we'd get up before sunrise for early morning tee-times, and endure freezing temperatures and rain delays, to finish after dark. Nothing was better than driving home in the company of my teammates as we recounted stories from the course, with our wind-burned faces, blistered hands, and wet feet. It was a privilege to join the ranks of the women of Amherst College golf, and to be put into a situation where I could show my true mettle. I don't need to have my golf bag strapped across my shoulders to draw on those experiences now; it has become part of my nature, as I believe it does for all those who get to play golf at Amherst. I do still have my Amherst College bag with the South Carolina bumper sticker on the bottom from the trip to Kiawah Island I made with my teammates (Gravel, Limpert, Sullivan, Foran, and Sidman) in 2003. Inside the bag are a purple sharpie and my best old score card from The Orchards. And on my bookshelf is one of my prized Amherst logo Pro-V golf balls.

Also on my bookshelf is a well-worn copy of Bob Rotella's *Golf is Not a Game of Perfect*. I brought this book with me to college. Inside, the pages are marked with notes in the margins and scraps of paper with "swing thoughts," and other inspirational quotes my parents sent me over the years. Once my dad said "life is about how you handle yourself when you've been knocked down." This was a topic of conversation on several occasions when I found myself seated in Coach Morgan's office. As I navigated a difficult freshman year, she was a

constant source of strength and wisdom. We talked about taking the time to make mistakes and recognize them, to make false starts and correct them, and to defeat the self-destructive thoughts that hold you back. I realized how afraid I was of making mistakes, but how necessary it was to make them to be able to grow. I started to understand that life was a lot like a round of golf. And when I started to trust in myself and the kind of game I played, everything else would fall into place.

I have returned to these lessons countless times in my life. Medical school proved to be a test of endurance; it was a lot like playing a really long round from the back tees on a water-logged course. In medical school, I joined the Navy, and I am writing this now from Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, where I've started my internship in Internal Medicine. I am fortunate to have the opportunity to serve my country, and I know that wherever I go, I will rely on my experience at Amherst. I am indebted to my teammates, my Coach, the women who carved out the program in the beginning, and those who are about to start the fall season. I'm so proud to have played on the team and to be so connected to you.

In parting, know that even after several years of only hitting golf balls off of mats you can still go out and beat the boys. And once in a while, your little sister may let you out-drive her.

Sarah Godwin '05
LT, MC
USN,