

AMHERST

Fifty-Third Annual Report to Secondary Schools

A Note from the Dean on the Class of 2003

Amherst has for over fifty years reported to the secondary school community. I am thrilled to have recently joined the staff here, to have become a participant in this fine tradition, and to pen this, our fifty-third Annual Report to Secondary Schools.

The statistics exhibited are impressive enough, certainly—the second largest applicant pool in the College's history, as diverse a class as you are likely to see at a small liberal arts college, extraordinary standardized test scores (particularly when viewed within the context of national norms), and an increasingly national student profile.

What lies behind or perhaps accounts for such statistics is, at least to my way of thinking, more important. What has struck me thus far in my brief tenure are the habits of mind of Amherst students; they are curious, comfortable and even joyous in the world of ideas, and deeply committed to the values of a diverse community. Fascinating to me also is the degree to which they are deeply interested in the admission process itself, an interest that I suspect grows out of their knowledge that the content and context of their education in a small community such as ours grows out of the myriad interactions (at all hours, it seems) with their fellow students as much as it does out of formal and informal dialogue with faculty.

Now, to less inspirational matters. As most of you know, the world of competitive admission is, in polite terms, in a state of flux, or, in less polite terms, a mess. The proliferation of various preferential packaging schemes and the accelerating tendency of even the nation's most competitive institutions to accept a far greater percentage of their class early decision or early action has deeply shaken the small but important world of competitive admission. Although Amherst may one day be forced to join this sad parade, we plan to continue to award financial aid on an equitable

basis and to adhere to the values of need-blind/need-based financial aid. In addition, we plan to accept roughly 30% of our class early. We are far more concerned with the actual students who show up in our classrooms and dormitories than we are with jiggling our statistics in such a way that we appear statistically more competitive to the general public. Although it would be easy enough for Amherst to accept fewer than 15% of its applicants, the desire to do so represents a species of lunacy, it seems to me.

These observations may seem overly strong or even cynical to many of you, so I look forward to hearing your own observations of the state of our profession at NACAC, the College Board, your offices or cafeterias, or wherever else I may bump into you. And so does the rest of the Amherst staff, a thoughtful and equally opinionated lot, I assure you. So let me introduce (or reintroduce) them to you. There are our grizzled veterans: Director of Admission/Senior Associate Dean **Katie Fretwell**, Senior Associate Director/Associate Dean **Kathy Mayberry**, Associate Dean **Michael Hawkins**; our somewhat grizzled assistant deans, **Stan Calhoun**, **Rob Killion**, and **Cate Zolkos**; our not-at-all grizzled Senior Admission Fellow, **Emma Chanlett-Avery**, Admission Fellows **Brian Simoneau** and **Guy Johnson**, and Admission Counselor **Nancy Ratner**.

Finally, I'd like to reciprocate your many kindnesses to us during past years and the upcoming one. Should you be in our area this year, please do not hesitate to give us a call; we would very much enjoy chatting and reflecting.



Tom Parker
Dean of Admission and Financial Aid

The Admission and Financial Aid Staff for 1999-2000

Tom Parker, *Dean of Admission and Financial Aid*

Admission

Katharine Fretwell, *Director of Admission/
Senior Associate Dean*

Kathy Mayberry, *Senior Associate Director/
Associate Dean*

Michael Hawkins, *Associate Dean*

Stan Calhoun, *Assistant Dean*

Robert Killion, *Assistant Dean*

Cate Zolkos, *Assistant Dean*

Emma Chanlett-Avery, *Senior Admission Fellow*

Guy Johnson, *Admission Fellow*

Brian Simoneau, *Admission Fellow*

Nancy Ratner, *Admission Counselor*

Constance Broughear, *Admission Processing Assistant*

Mary Carlson, *Staff Assistant*

Jean Clark O'Brien, *Information Systems Manager*

Donna Dorrell, *Admission Information Coordinator*

Cindy Dumais-Holubowich, *Campus Visit
Coordinator*

Susan Geissler, *Staff Assistant*

Flora Josephs, *Administrative Assistant
to the Dean of Admission*

Linda Loven, *Reference Secretary*

Linda Rodriguez, *Admission Assistant*

Judith Trzcieski, *Data Entry Coordinator*

Financial Aid

Joe Paul Case, *Director of Financial Aid*

Kathleen Gentile, *Associate Dean*

Michael Ellison, *Assistant Dean*

Pamela Crouse, *Department Secretary*

Joan Millette, *Financial Aid Counselor*

Helen Vassallo, *Student Record Assistant*

First-Year Students in the Class of 2003

A Snapshot

Student Background Profile

54% are men and 46% women

44% are receiving aid (42% include scholarship
and grant aid)

29% indicated they're American students of color
(122 students)

11.4% Asian-American (49 students)

7.3% Latino/a (31 students)

6.5% African-American (28 students)

2.8% multi-ethnic (12 students)

.5% American Indian (2 students)

10% are first-generation college students

12% are children of alumni

9% are international

(4.5% foreign/non-immigrant)

6% have indicated that English is not their first
language

Students from 40 states, DC, Puerto Rico
and 28 countries

Student Academic Profile

88% finished in the top 10% of their class
(of those with reported rank)

25% are valedictorians

(of those with reported rank)

20% are National Merit Semifinalists

mean SAT scores: verbal 699, math 696

mean ACT score: 29

36% plan to pursue science or math

29% plan to pursue social sciences

27% plan to pursue humanities

5% plan to pursue arts or foreign language

30% of the class were admitted through

Early Decision

Secondary schools represented in the class: 340

Statistics for the Past Decade

Year	Number of Applicants	Number of Students Accepted	Number of Students Enrolled
1999	5194	997 (19%)	428 (43%)
1998	4491	1030 (23%)	440 (43%)
1997	5210	1039 (20%)	434 (42%)
1996	4682	922 (20%)	431 (47%)
1995	4836	943 (19%)	422 (45%)
1994	4823	976 (20%)	418 (43%)
1993	4302	991 (23%)	423 (43%)
1992	4572	952 (21%)	395 (42%)
1991	4408	1080 (25%)	439 (41%)
1990	4582	987 (22%)	406 (41%)
1989	4504	995 (22%)	427 (43%)

For the Class of 2003, 368 students applied under the Early Decision option; 127 students were offered admission (35%).

Secondary School Representation

	Public	Private	Parochial, etc.
Applied	3276 (63%)	1618 (31%)	302 (6%)
Accepted	612 (61%)	340 (34%)	53 (5%)
Enrolled	245 (57%)	163 (38%)	21 (5%)
Number of Schools Represented in the Class	213 (63%)	107 (31%)	20 (6%)

Rank in Class

	Applied	Accepted	Enrolled
Top 10th	1914 (74%)	468 (92%)	177 (88%)
Second 10th	375 (14%)	35 (7%)	20 (10%)
Third 10th	159 (6%)	6 (1%)	4 (2%)
Fourth/Fifth	107 (4%)	1 (<1%)	1 (<1%)
Total Number of Ranked Students	2586 (50%)	511 (51%)	202 (47%)
Total Number of Unranked Students	2608 (50%)	491 (49%)	226 (53%)

Distribution of College Board SAT I Scores

VERBAL	Applied	Accepted	Enrolled
750-800	1161	408 (41%)	132 (31%)
700-749	1167	251 (25%)	96 (23%)
650-699	1174	187 (19%)	105 (25%)
600-649	764	101 (10%)	59 (14%)
550-599	382	36 (4%)	21 (5%)
500-549	169	8 (1%)	7 (2%)
450-499	60	2 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
200-450	33	0	0
Mean	683	717	699
Mid 50%		670-780	650-760
MATH	Applied	Accepted	Enrolled
750-800	990	343 (34%)	97 (23%)
700-749	1298	268 (27%)	129 (31%)
650-699	1281	197 (20%)	111 (26%)
600-649	787	125 (13%)	58 (14%)
550-599	339	39 (4%)	20 (5%)
500-549	142	18 (2%)	5 (1%)
450-499	48	3 (<1%)	2 (<1%)
200-450	25	0	0
Mean	682	708	696
Mid 50%		660-770	650-740

Geographical Distribution of Those Matriculating

New York	71	Tennessee	04	Total US	409
Massachusetts	68	Georgia	03	Foreign	19
California	48	Kansas	03	Middle Atlantic	30%
Connecticut	28	Michigan	03	New England	25.5%
New Jersey	26	New Mexico	03	West-Southwest	18%
Florida	20	Oregon	03	Midwest	11%
Maryland	14	Delaware	02	South-Southeast	11%
Ohio	11	Hawaii	02	Foreign	4.5%
Virginia	11	Kentucky	02	Total	100%
Illinois	09	Rhode Island	02		
Pennsylvania	09	South Dakota	02		
Texas	07	Alabama	01		
Missouri	07	Alaska	01		
Colorado	06	Arkansas	01		
District of Columbia	06	Indiana	01		
Maine	06	Mississippi	01		
Washington	06	Montana	01		
New Hampshire	05	Nebraska	01		
Wisconsin	05	South Carolina	01		
Minnesota	04	Vermont	01		
North Carolina	04				

Senior Major Distribution for the Class of 1999

Single Majors		Double Majors			
American Studies	4	American Studies, Economics	1	English, Sociology	1
Anthropology	11	American Studies, French	1	English, Women's &	
Asian Languages & Civilizations	5	American Studies, Spanish	1	Gender Studies	1
Biology	18	Anthropology, English	1	Fine Arts, Computer Science	1
Black Studies	1	Asian Languages & Civilizations; Political Science	1	Fine Arts, Political Science	3
Chemistry	8	Biology, History	1	Fine Arts, Spanish	1
Classics	2	Biology; Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought	1	French, History	2
Computer Science	6	Biology, Neuroscience	1	French, Philosophy	1
Economics	30	Biology, Spanish	4	French, Political Science	1
English	38	Black Studies, Interdisciplinary	1	Geology, Russian	1
Fine Arts	11	Chemistry, History	1	Greek, Psychology	1
French	3	Chemistry, Neuroscience	1	History, Black Studies	1
Geology	9	Chemistry, Spanish	2	History, Fine Arts	1
German	2	Classics, French	1	History, Political Science	2
History	15	Classics, History	1	History, Spanish	1
Independent Study	2	Computer Science, Economics	4	Interdisciplinary, Classics	1
Interdisciplinary	2	Computer Science, English	1	Interdisciplinary, French	1
Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought	17	Computer Science, French	1	Interdisciplinary, Political Science	2
Mathematics	1	Economics, Computer Science	1	Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought; Neuroscience	1
Music	1	Economics, English	4	Music, Political Science	1
Neuroscience	10	Economics, French	3	Neuroscience, French	1
Philosophy	5	Economics; Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought	1	Philosophy; Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought	1
Political Science	42	Economics, Political Science	1	Physics, Mathematics	2
Psychology	36	English, Computer Science	1	Political Science, Economics	2
Religion	4	English, Economics	1	Political Science, French	2
Russian	5	English, French	4	Political Science, Spanish	3
Sociology	4	English, Geology	1	Political Science, Theater & Dance	1
Spanish	4	English, German	1	Psychology, Spanish	2
Theater & Dance	8	English, History	1	Sociology, Spanish	2
Total Single Majors	304	English, Physics	1	Spanish, History	2
		English, Political Science	2	Theater & Dance; English	3
		English, Psychology	1	Theater & Dance; Music	1
				Theater & Dance; Psychology	1
				Total Double Majors	95

Triple Majors

Economics, Political Science, Spanish	1
Law, Jurisprudence & Social Thought; Political Science, Sociology	1
Total Triple Majors	2

Total number of Class of 1999 Graduates

401

Financial Aid

	1999 (Class of 2003)	1998 (Class of 2002)
Accepted students who applied for scholarship and grant aid	611 (61%)	576 (56%)
Accepted students who demonstrated need for scholarship and grant aid	413 (41%)	410 (40%)
Of those, accepted students awarded scholarship and grant aid	413 (100%)	410 (100%)
Total amount offered	\$7,904,519	\$7,070,365
Average amount offered	\$19,139	\$17,245
Matriculating students who received scholarship and grant aid	179 (42%)	173 (40%)
Total amount	\$3,598,553	\$3,094,242
Average amount	\$20,104	\$17,681

Fall Transfer Students

	Men	Women	Total
Applied	73 (46%)	87 (54%)	160
Accepted	6 (40%)	9 (60%)	15
Enrolled	4 (50%)	4 (50%)	8

14 transfer students enrolled in the Spring of 1999; 21 transfer students enrolled in the Fall of 1998.

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