Alumni & Parent Programs

Annual Report 2018
The office of Alumni and Parent Programs connects members of the Amherst Community with one another and with the College. We work with alumni/parent volunteers and campus partners on programs and projects that build community while advancing the mission of the College.

Contact our office to share an idea or inquire about how you can connect:

alumni@amherst.edu / 413.542.2313
23,000+ alumni and parents

68% of alumni engaged with the College in some way (online, volunteering, giving, event participation, sharing feedback)

168 events planned

9,885 alumni, parents, students, friends, and guests attended Amherst events
Classmates

Helping alumni connect with their classmates is central to our work, and, in fiscal year 2018, we supported the work of 529 class officers to that end. Amherst College class reunions are a group effort made possible by our partnership with dedicated alumni volunteers who plan sessions on a rich array of topics. At this year’s reunion, 40+ programs were planned by volunteers, showcasing the contributions from Amherst alumni and faculty and making our particular approach unique among peer schools.
2,360 alumni and their guests participated in Reunion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>103 programs</th>
<th>60+ class meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>108 alumni speakers</td>
<td>122 Reunion volunteers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 faculty and administrator speakers</td>
<td>192 students worked on campus during the weekend and interacted with alumni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Our 55th reunion in late May attracted 50 classmates and 35 guests, including re-elected class president Laurie Osborn’s three delightful young grandchildren at the Friday evening dinner...As usual, the reunion was a packed five-day event, with many presentations by classmates, other classes, and the college.”

— Neale Adams ’63
Class Notes
Between reunions, class notes serves as a crucial bridge for keeping alumni connected. Our ongoing coordination with volunteers and the Amherst magazine yielded three editions of class notes this year.

85 classes were represented in class notes

5,653 mentions of classmates in class notes
Communities

Our office is committed to bringing together many different Amherst communities. Programs throughout the world keep the College community together. Strong regional associations exist from coast to coast and overseas, and plan programs for alumni and parents. Affinity programs, highlighted in the College's Strategic Plan, bring together alumni and students who share common experiences or identities and organize a range of events on and off campus and also online. Annual Family Weekend events further involve parents, friends, mentors and loved ones in the life of the College.
I loved the exhibit! It was so cool to see the work of a woman in science from that era of history, and the work was outstanding. I also really enjoyed learning about the history of how these scientific subjects were taught before.
Affinity group gatherings in FY18

Geology major • Chemistry major • Religion major • The Amherst Student • Hillel • Amherst Christian Fellowship • The DQ • Zumbyes • Women of Color • Men of Color • Alumni of Color • Latinx Alumni • LGBTQIAP Alumni • Black Alumni • Careers in Finance • Careers in Education • First-Generation Alumni • Careers in Government/Non-Profit • Football • Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving • Men’s and Women’s Soccer • International Alumni • Veterans • Women in Science
“Alumni from many cohorts came back and the inter-generational connection was powerful. Also having the weekend bookended with significant national black voices was moving.”
Classroom

One of things that makes Amherst Amherst is the close colloquy between faculty and students. We work to extend that experience to alumni, parents, and others in the Amherst community by developing multiple events with faculty and administrators on campus, regionally, and online.

In fall and spring, Amherst Today offers a two-day on-campus exploration of a single topic through lectures and discussions led by Amherst’s exceptional faculty and alumni. Last year’s topics were “The Connecticut River Valley Before Amherst College” and “Russia: Politics and Culture.” These events featured 15 academic presentations by alumni, faculty and student speakers.
73 intellectual engagement events
64 faculty/administrators featured
21 academic departments featured
16 administrative offices featured
34 intellectual engagement events off campus
Traditions

We celebrate traditions, the centerpiece of which is our annual Homecoming festivities. In fiscal year 2018, over 2,000 members of the Amherst community gathered on campus. One of our oldest traditions is the Amherst/Williams football game—the Biggest Little Game in America—played in 2017 for the 132nd time. Over the years, our alumni and parents have used many technologies to follow the game—from radio to television to the internet—and we plan annual Telecast parties to help them experience it together. Joining the alumni body is the start of new traditions for graduating seniors, and each year we help prepare them for this transition through a variety of campus programs.

These canes are a 19th century Amherst tradition that was revived and reshaped by the Class of 2003 to celebrate class unity and spirit. The canes for graduating seniors are known as the Conway Canes, in honor of a gift from Brian J. Conway, Class of 1980, and Kevin J. Conway, Class of 1980, to endow the Fund for College Canes. The Conway Canes are presented to all Amherst seniors to mark their graduation from Amherst and to serve as an enduring symbol of their connection to their class, to a unique tradition at Amherst and to their alma mater.
2,000+ Homecoming participants

50 concerts, special theme tents, lectures, receptions, and social events over Homecoming Weekend

47 regions where Telecast parties took place

609 participants in Telecast overall
The Amherst Network

In fiscal year 2018, we worked with partners to bring together alumni within the Amherst network—an invaluable resource for connecting around classmates or careers. This year, we offered 80 events that brought alumni and students together. Networking events also included programs developed in partnership with the Loeb Center for Career Exploration and Planning. Alumni regularly connect through Amherst channels on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
Our newest students and families were introduced to the Amherst network through 25 Summer Send-off events planned in collaboration with 55 alumni hosts and regional volunteers. All told, 33.4 percent of our incoming students were able to participate, along with 282 current students and 412 alumni.

80
events connected students with alumni
One of our most important tools is the Amherst Alumni Directory, which supports alumni, student and faculty connections through searches by region, major, dorm, career field and many other categories. In addition, Amherst supports 54 alumni listservs.

1,440 alumni made updates to their profiles
5,675 logged into the directory
Update your information in our new alumni directory!

engage.amherst.edu/alumni