

**S. Lawrence Kahn III '68**  
Miami, FL



“Why do you want to be a Trustee?” is a simple question with a complex answer. In my case there is both a rational response and an emotional one.

Under President Marx, the College has undertaken a thorough analysis of its future course. The Committee on Academic Priorities’ (CAP) plan is, in my opinion, excellent. Great emphasis has been focused on building the best possible

student body, the need for diversity, community service, and making Amherst accessible for all admitted students. I would be honored to have a role in implementing this important new direction for the College.

Such a laudable initiative focusing on who goes into the College needs to be met with an equal commitment to the individual who comes out. Our graduates face an increasingly global and entrepreneurial environment, and it is critical that Amherst students have the skills to embrace the opportunities in industry, science, education, healthcare and the arts that our changing world offers.

As an entrepreneur myself, I have seen the world shrink even in my own traditionally domestic industry, homebuilding, where today we deal with the needs of both international customers and employees. Additionally, as Chairman of the Florida International University Foundation, I have gained experience with a 38,000-student state university that embodies diversity and emphasizes international preparation. I would like to apply this expertise at Amherst. Strong relationships with educational institutions around the world and greater focus on foreign languages could provide an important addition to Amherst’s excellent liberal arts education.

I also believe that my board service at two public companies and a major hospital would enable me to work collaboratively with the other Trustees in shaping Amherst’s future.

I have had the good fortune to serve in several alumni positions, including Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Alumni Council. In addition, my son (Lowell Kahn '97) and niece (Megan Kahn '04), both Amherst graduates, have kept me in touch with the issues important to today’s students.

The emotional part of my answer goes back to my freshman year. Coming from a public high school in Memphis, I felt unprepared for the rigors of the Amherst curriculum. To go from the terrified freshman in Professor Arnie Aaron’s physics class to a Trustee of the College would be the embodiment of what I learned at Amherst—with hard work, determination and an Amherst education, everything is possible.

**Amherst:** B.A. European History, '68; Vice Chairman *Amherst Student*, Freshman football.

**Further Education:** Harvard Business School M.B.A. '72 with “High Distinction.”

**Military:** Lieutenant U.S. Navy (1968-1971).

**Alumni Activities:** Class Agent (1988-1993); Executive Committee of the Alumni Council (1997-2001), Chairman (2000-2001); Past President of the Amherst Association of South Florida; Nominating Committee of the Society of the Alumni (2007-2008); 1821 Society.

**Professional:** *Lowell Homes, Inc.* (www.Lowellhomesinc.com), Miami, President and Owner (1986-Present). Lowell Homes is a developer and builder of residential communities in the state of Florida. *Planned Development Corp.*, Executive V.P. (1974-1986); *U.S. Home Corp.*, Project Manager (1972-1974). Licensed general contractor and real estate broker.

**Corporate Boards:** *Great Florida Bank* (GFLB – NASDAQ), Director (2004-Present), Chairman Risk Management and Loan Committee (2004-2006); *Florida International Bank*, Director (1981-1986), Chairman Investment Committee (1981-1986); *Levitt Corp.* (LEV-NYSE), Director (2003-Present), Chairman of the Compensation Committee and member of the Audit Committee (2003-Present).

**Community, Not for Profit and Volunteer Service:** *Baptist Hospital of Miami*, Board of Directors (1992-Present), Vice Chairman (2005-Present); *Florida International University* (FIU) Foundation, Director (2000-Present), Chairman of the Board 2006-Present, Chairman of the Athletic Committee (2002-2004); *WPBT Channel 2* (PBS Affiliate) Board of Directors (1995-2005), Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee (1995-1998); *Miami Dade Affordable Housing Foundation Trust*, Board of Directors (2001-2003); *Builders Association of South Florida* (1974-Present), President (1986-1987); *City of Miami Downtown Development Authority*, Board of Directors (1988-1995); *Greater Miami Chamber of Commerce*, Trustee and member of the Board of Governors (1996-Present); *Miami Coalition for the Homeless*: My wife and I established and fund a program to pay first and last months’ rent and security deposit for families who are ready to leave the homeless shelter and move into a private apartment.

**Personal:** Married Susan Merklas (Mary Baldwin College '68, University of Miami M.B.A. '78) in 1968. We have three children: Lani (Tulane '94), Lowell (Amherst '97 and Emory M.D./M.B.A. '03), and Lauren (Emory '02). We also have three grandchildren and one on the way. I especially enjoy outdoor activities such as fishing in the Everglades and hiking in remote mountain areas in the Great Smoky Mountains, Tetons, Andes and Himalayas.