

AMHERST COLLEGE
REPORT OF ADVANCEMENT
October 18, 2011 Faculty Meeting

Alumni and parents once again stepped up for Amherst in FY11, allowing us to celebrate strong results in engagement and fundraising. And we thank you, the faculty, for once again stepping up as well. In spite of a year of institutional and departmental transitions Advancement colleagues drew on their collective creativity, were inspired by our alumni, parents, faculty, students and staff across campus to achieve their respective goals and objectives.

Alumni engagement rose above 70% for the first time. The Parents' Fund set a new record raising over \$725,000 contributing to the overall Annual Fund finish of \$10 million+, the third highest in the college's history. On the participation front, FY11 ended with an increase of 252 alumni donors over last year for a finish of 58.2% participation. The youngest cohort of classes rallied with an average increase of 3.5 percentage points per class, and the Class of 2011 reached an impressive 87.8% participation rate for their senior gift.

The *Lives of Consequence Campaign* stands at \$412 million (97 %) toward the \$425 million goal. Nearly 200 current and retired faculty and staff have contributed more than \$1 million to the campaign. Among the largest gifts to the college in the past several months is a \$2 million gift annuity, the largest the college has ever funded. Nine bequests totaling \$2.9 million have been realized since July 1, 2011. In addition, the college has welcomed 29 new Johnson Chapel Associates (JCAs), our bequest society, bringing the total number of JCAs to 180 toward our campaign goal of 500. The Campaign Executive Committee met by phone in September, and it was apparent from the conversations during the conference call that there remains a great deal of opportunity to continue to realize commitments to Amherst, particularly from those who will support the college at the \$100,000 - \$1 million level. Many gift conversations that are underway need additional time to reach a successful conclusion. The campaign co-chairs are in agreement with Bidy that we should soldier on and use the opportunity of reaching \$425 million to pause and celebrate the achievements and generosity to-date, and to communicate our plans to forge ahead. We will do just that while also reframing the campaign to emphasize the ambitious and exciting science center project that lies ahead and restate the needs for support for our existing campaign priorities (financial aid, faculty and curricular support, as well as student programming).

The Foundation and Corporate Relations team (FCR) has gone from 274 contacts with funders in FY10 to 329 in FY11 and their deliberate objective of outreach and support of faculty who are seeking grants has also increased significantly - from 390 contacts with faculty in FY10 to over 1,000 in FY11. Although not all contacts result in new proposals, we are seeing increasing numbers of both new and longtime faculty apply for outside funding or participate in collaborative projects, such as the Mellon faculty-student research pilot project and the NSF Undergraduate Biomath education grant with Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith. Often faculty who meet with the FCR team in the context of a group project or meeting will follow up with questions about funding for their own research. In FY11, Amherst submitted 36 proposals

for federal and private grants totaling \$6.38 million in requests, and we received 30 new awards totaling \$3.3 million. Among them was a 2-year \$199,000 grant to Amherst and Wesleyan University from the Teagle Foundation to strengthen writing instruction.

FCR will work with the Mead Art Museum to develop a request to Mellon Foundation later this year for a grant to endow the Coordinator of College Programs position and to continue a successful program of seminars for faculty on teaching with objects from the museum's collection. We have also begun conversations with the Mellon Foundation's Liberal Arts Colleges program to continue funding for a highly successful pilot project to encourage faculty-student collaboration in humanities and social science research at Amherst. A \$1.48 million proposal to the Howard Hughes Medical Institute was submitted earlier this month. The proposal focuses on intersections of the life sciences and quantitative disciplines and includes support for student research, postdoctoral fellows and a series of curriculum development activities and research symposia that will engage faculty and students from the life sciences, physical sciences, and mathematics.

Our Alumni and Parent Programs team succeeded in launching hundreds of programs around the country and virtually that attracted alumni and parents to connect with Amherst. We could not have done it without participation of faculty and administrators who volunteered their time to these efforts. Faculty involvement in Alumni and Parent and Development programs has grown from 29 faculty and administrators participating in 2008 to 77 participating last year.

Once again we thank you for your assistance in helping Advancement to connect alumni and parents to the college. We look forward to another productive and prosperous year for Amherst.