

Smith Deserves Our Support

In the 45th reunion survey and conversations on campus, many expressed dismay over the high acceptance rate among applicants (roughly 45%) and the college's decision to forego the SAT requirement. This led many 63ers to conclude that the quality of the student body had declined considerably since we were there and that the college didn't merit meaningful financial support.

The accomplishments of today's Smith graduates prove otherwise. They have a remarkable record of achievement that at least equals and may well surpass our own. The college clearly knows how to identify "women of promise" and how to educate and inspire them to be leaders in whatever field they choose.

- Fulbright Fellowships Record: For the past 7 years, Smith has won more Fulbright Fellowships than any other college in the country - 19 in 2011 (a new record for Smith) - and they will be representing us in 14 different countries around the world. Moreover, of the 210 Fulbrights won by Smithies since we began keeping records in 1970, more than 50% (128) have been won since 2001 and the percentage of Smith applicants chosen as fellows is higher than that of any other college in the country.
- A Global Campus: Smith has launched a successful initiative to recruit top notch women from around the world who are or will become leaders when they return home. Shehribano Taseer (Smith 2010), now a journalist for Newsweek, is just one example. The daughter of Salmaan Taseer, the liberal Governor of Pakistan's Punjab province who was gunned down by an Islamist Extremist, is traveling extensively within and outside of Pakistan to speak and write against Islamist Extremism. 13% of Smith's student body now consists of gifted and motivated foreign students, and this year the daughters of the Presidents of Rwanda and Mongolia are both members of the freshman class. What better preparation for the global society in which we live?
- Students and Recent Smith Graduates Excel in All Fields: Smith E News releases are filled with remarkable accomplishments of recent graduates who have achieved recognition and success in virtually every area. They are best-selling authors; journalists; presidents of major corporations; scientists whose work has been published; award winning engineers; PhDs in mathematics; recognized chefs; key members of the White House administration and staff; elected officials; entrepreneurs, and even two successful English Channel swimmers (Class of 2013).
- Women's Colleges Still Surpass Public and Private Coed Institutions in Critical Areas: A study conducted among females who graduated from 1970 – 1997 revealed that all women's colleges were judged superior to their coed counterparts in creating leaders, communicators and persuaders. They were also better at developing valuable skills for life and career – self-confidence, analytical thinking, bringing social and historical perspectives to issues, working as part of a team and making sound decisions. Another study comparing the experiences of female freshmen and seniors from all women's and coed colleges and universities from 2000-2002 found that those attending

all women's institutions worked harder and entered a wider range of fields – science, math, engineering, humanities and social science than their counterparts at coed schools. These women were more likely to enter traditional “women's” fields such as education. (The careers of recent Smith graduates bear this out.)

Smith is still a unique and outstanding educational institution. It deserves our support for the terrific education it gave us and, more importantly, for the opportunities it is giving today's women and will continue to give future generations. It's not the entrance statistics that count - it's the exit results. Those are stellar and the word is getting out.