



# **Core Survey : Alumni, Students, Faculty & Staff**

**CRPT, September 14-15, 2017**

# Response Rates

- Faculty (73% response)
- Staff (9% response)
- Students (60% response)
  - Sent to all returning sophomores, juniors, and seniors
- Alumni Survey (25% response)

**The response rates are mostly excellent!**

# **The Core Curriculum: Themes and Quotes from the Alumni Survey**

# Because of its breadth, the Core gives our graduates an advantage in industry

“Mudd graduates are willing and able to take on multiple projects spanning multiple areas of expertise and are able to execute them efficiently with a generally high-quality output. Mudd graduates tend to collect all the projects that slip through the cracks because they don't fit neatly into anyone's ‘area of expertise.’ ”

# Because of its breadth, the Core gives our graduates an advantage in industry

“The number of silo-ed STEM people I meet from other institutions just depresses me, both on the breadth of their STEM skills, and in the often paltry exposure to the humanities and social sciences.”

“On entering the workforce I was absolutely stunned to find out that people from all sorts of disciplines frequently said ‘I don't do or know X, so I'm not the right person for this’ or otherwise bottled/barricaded themselves in the comfort of their known field ... but the place Mudders work best and add the most value is when the answers aren't known, and that's deeply related to the universal Core experience.”

# Because of its breadth, the Core gives our graduates an advantage in industry

“The Core makes you an asset to your research team or your Company because you will be able to creatively solve problems by borrowing tools and concepts from other fields.”

“[The Core], along with HMC's approach to engineering, gave me a huge advantage in my career over those that had EE or other specialized degrees.”

“The core curriculum gave me the skills I use every day to communicate with co-workers in other disciplines and to become a technical leader in my field.”

# Because of its breadth, the Core also gives us an advantage in graduate school and academia

“In my graduate school experience, it became very clear that I had much more experience outside my major than my classmates, even as someone who sometime struggled with the Core. I think this breadth is more important to making Mudders stand out among our peers, even at the expense of some depth.”

“The HMC technical core was the single most crucial aspect of my development at Mudd - and after 20 years in a variety of academic and research environments, my breadth across technical disciplines is easily the most distinguishing feature of what I bring to the table versus peers from other institutions.”

## **The Core teaches students how to work quickly and efficiently, manage their time, and succeed with tough assignments on short deadlines**

“[The Core] set me up well for industry where I often face basically impossible deadlines but manage to finish enough content, well enough and on time, that I still succeed.”

“One of the main benefits of core was learning how to triage a massive workload for a set period of time. The time management skills, and ability to work very quickly that I developed during core, have been some of the most valuable skills that I acquired at Mudd.”

# The Core prepares students for life after HMC

“The role of Core Curriculum is to prepare a student for whatever technical and leadership challenges that the student may encounter later in life.”

“[The Core] can be overwhelming at times, but its purpose isn't to make students suffer.”

“Having had to work harder than anyone else did as a student has made me bulletproof in my professional life, and supremely confident that I can still make time for personal passions, even when life is busy.”

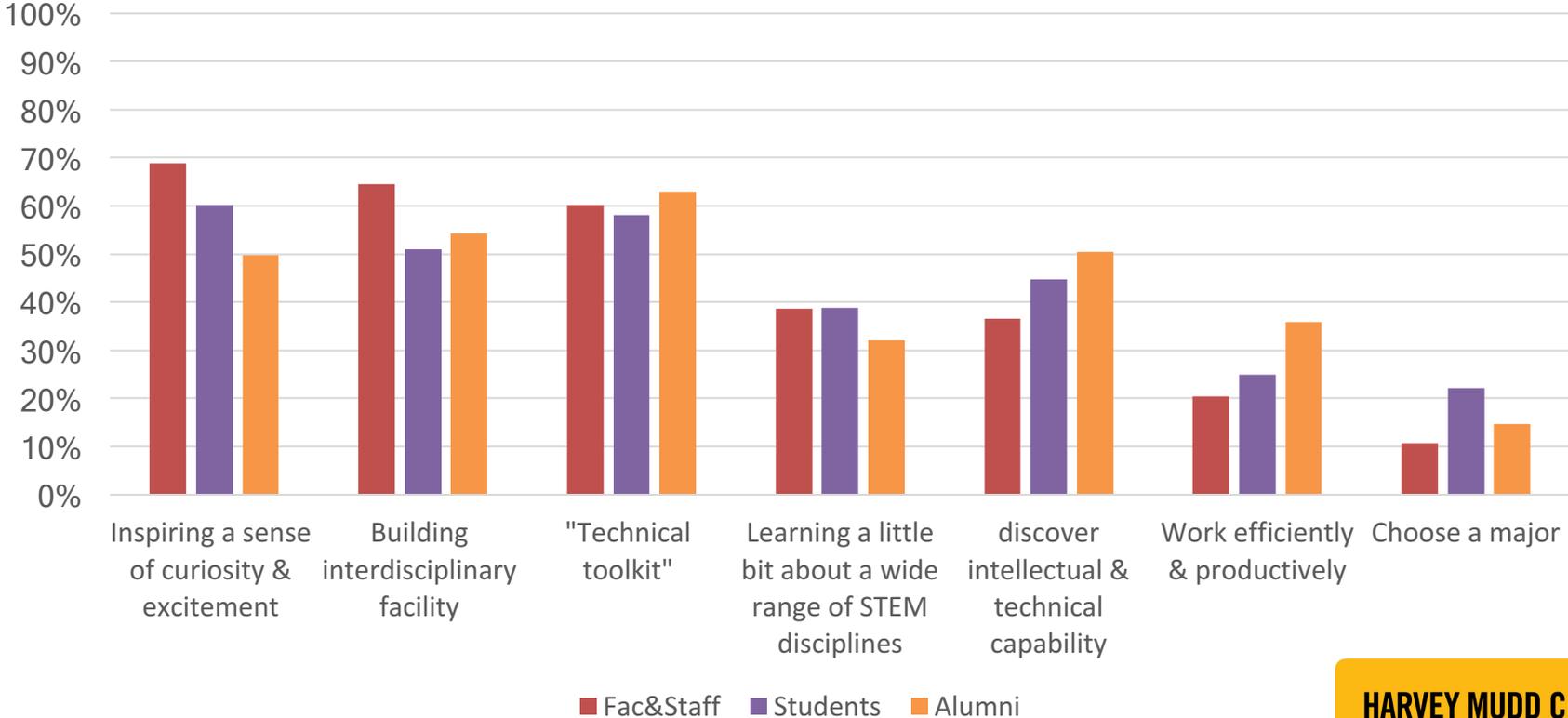
# **The Core creates deep friendships with classmates and a common experience with all other HMC graduates**

“The most valuable part of Core for me was being pushed past what I believed I could do, and sharing that experience with all of my classmates. That everyone goes through core also provides universal common experiences with other Mudders from different classes.”

“[The Core] gives you the shared foundation that all Mudders have -- it's like the forge you go through that both makes you stronger and binds you together.”

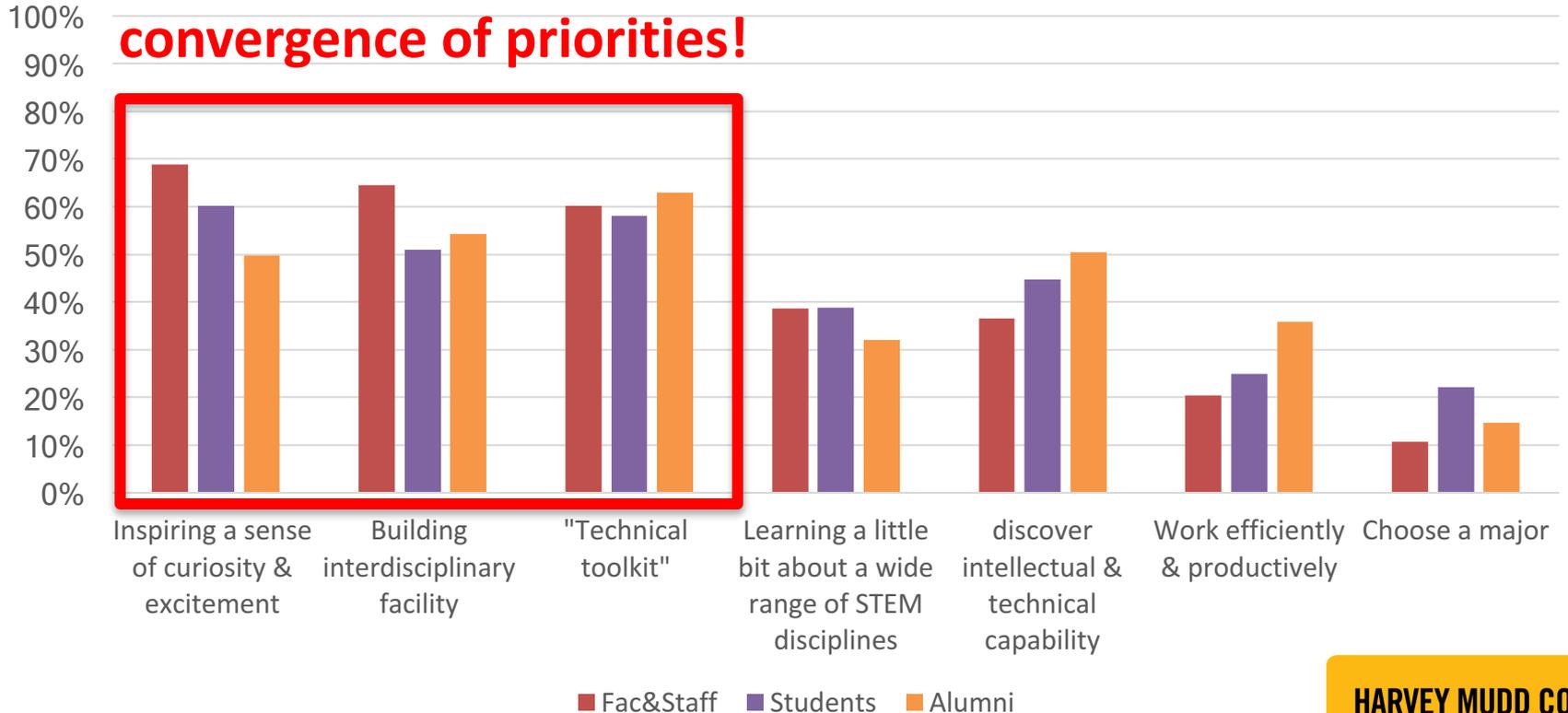
# Aspirations for Core

## Percent Ranked in the Top 3



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# Small Group Discussion:

*Based on the survey results, it seems we have a possible framework of priorities for the core curriculum (listed below). What is right about this framing? What is being missed?*

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- (1) Inspiring in students a sense of curiosity and excitement about what is possible in a discipline
- (2) Building interdisciplinary facility(e.g., equipping students to engage across disciplinary boundaries
- (3) Providing a “technical toolkit” that acts as a foundation for advanced study in STEM

<https://tinyurl.com/y9vquuvz>