**LETTER OF APPLICATION**

November 5, 20XX

Cell Biology and Genetics Search

Biology Department

Amherst College

Amherst, MA 01002-5000

To the Search Committee:

I am writing to apply for the assistant professor position beginning September 20XX, as advertised in the 11 October issue of *Science*. I am currently a postdoctoral fellow and lecturer in Molecular Genetics and Cell Biology at the University of Chicago. I received my Ph.D. from the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at Harvard University in 2000. As an alumnus of a small liberal arts college myself, I know and value the excellent education they provide to undergraduates, and would be honored to join the Amherst community as an Assistant Professor.

My research and teaching interests have been fostered by several years worth of undergraduate teaching and mentoring at both Harvard and Chicago. At Chicago, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to serve as instructor for “Origin of Life,” a lab and lecture course for non-science majors. I also bring several years of experience as a Teaching Fellow at Harvard in genetics and cell biology courses relevant to the available position. In particular, I have taught discussion and laboratory sections for both introductory molecular and cellular biology and for introductory genetics for three semesters each.

In addition to the weekly laboratories incorporated into the molecular biology course, I taught a section of a summer school laboratory course on the principles and techniques of molecular biology. I also served as the Head Teaching Fellow for an introductory biology course, gaining experience with course management and curriculum design that has served me well in my position as a lecturer. My teaching at Harvard was recognized by two Certificates of Distinction in Teaching, awarded based upon student evaluations.

I have also supervised the undergraduate research of several students here at Chicago. My postdoctoral research has focused upon elucidating the mechanisms of *P* element insertion in *Drosophila* *melanogaster*. This builds upon my dissertation research in the molecular evolution and populationgenetics of transposable elements in natural *Drosophila* populations. This research and the projects that will stem from it can be adapted to provide undergraduates with research opportunities for their Senior Honors projects at Amherst and would also complement the existing strengths of the department.

My post-doctoral and graduate school experiences have reinforced my appreciation for the liberal arts college environment. I have missed the small classes, active learning opportunities, and interdisciplinary students motivated by curiosity and love of learning. I look forward to once again becoming part of a liberal arts community and I can think of no better environment than the Amherst Biology Department in which to grow as an educator and a scientist.

I am enclosing my CV and statement of teaching philosophy. Letters of recommendation are being mailed under separate cover. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Dutton