Chapter VII: ALUMNI SURVEY

Who takes it? University alumni five and ten years after graduation

When is it administered? February

What office administers it? Assessment & Testing Office

Who originates the survey? ACT and Truman State University

When are the results typically available? Late summer

What type of information is sought?

The Alumni Survey firsts asks some demographic information on the former students. The alumni are also asked when they graduated and what their highest planned degree is. Other information is sought about why Truman was selected and how they financed their college education. Alumni are then asked to rate various aspects of their University and curricular experience and their satisfaction with different services on campus; how their major affected their knowledge, abilities, and attitudes; how their experience affected their ability to continue their education (if they did) and to select and carry out their employment; and whether they are willing to have their employer be sent a survey and whether they wish to add any additional comments.

From who are the results available?
Assessment and Testing Office in Violette Hall 1130

Are the results available by division or discipline? Yes, if requested

Are the results comparable to data of other universities? No

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FY07 ALUMNI SURVEY FY 1996 AND FY 2001 GRADUATES SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

ALUMNI SURVEY SUMMARY

The fiscal year 2007 Alumni Survey was mailed to alumni who graduated in fiscal year 1996 or 2001 with either a baccalaureate or graduate degree from Truman. A total of 2,239 surveys were mailed in February. 359 or 16% of the surveys were completed, so the results of this survey should be viewed with this response rate in mind. A complete SPSS report of the survey is available from the Assessment & Testing Office in Violette Hall 1130. This report is 50+ pages in length and may be shared electronically in an SPSS file if desired.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The survey was completed by alumni, consisting of 25.8% males and 74.2% females, predominately white, non-Hispanics between the ages of 24 and 34. Among respondents 40.7% of the alumni currently hold baccalaureate degrees while 43.8% hold master's degrees and 14.1% hold doctoral or professional degrees. During their years at Truman, 69.2% were classified as in-state and 30.2% were classified as out-of-state residents. Only 10.9% of the respondents transferred to Truman from another college or university. 63.8% attended Truman for four years or less while 26.2% attended for five years and 9.8% attended for 6 or more years. The primary and secondary reasons why alumni completed their degree at Truman were the institution's academic reputation and its cost/overall affordability respectively. 50% of the alumni now reside in the state of Missouri and almost 22% reside in a bordering state.

COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

Of the 359 alumni, 84% would probably or definitely choose to attend Truman again if they could start college over. Regarding their major 63.2% would probably or definitely choose to graduate with the same major, while 22.8% would probably or definitely not choose the same major. Attitudes toward Truman were positive as 84.9% felt that their college education prepared them well for their career and 89.6% felt that it prepared them well for post-baccalaureate study. Relative to other institutions, over 79.8% felt that their academic preparation was better than their current work colleagues' and 76.6% felt it was better than the students' in their post-baccalaureate educational programs. Almost 89% of the alumni believe that they understand the purpose of liberal arts and sciences, and 97.1% believe that they were able to perform as well or better than their colleagues who may have earned degrees with non-liberal arts backgrounds and heavy discipline emphasis.

When asked to rate Truman's alumni association's programs and services, alumni rated the publications, homecoming activities/reunions, fund raising programs, and alumni chapter activities as at least fair and working towards good. Alumni were also asked how frequently they participated in a variety of activities during the past five years. At some point, 96.3% have read the <u>Truman Review</u>; 85.1% have visited Truman's website, 61.5% have visited campus, 49.2% have read the *Index*, 46.9% contributed to or solicited for the annual fund, and 41% read the emailed newsletter. However, almost 90% have never attended an alumni function on campus, 85.7% have never attended an alumni function off campus, and 92.7% have never attended an alumni chapter-related event as a member. As might be expected from the lack of

attendance, 99.4% have never served on an alumni-related committee, 82.6% have never attended sporting events, and 53.1% have never contributed to or solicited for the annual fund. However 92.1% have maintained some contact with other alumni, 54.6% with faculty members, and 24.4% with administrators or staff.

In general, alumni felt that the Liberal Studies Program or co-curriculum education/experiences at Truman were adequate. In particular, the alumni felt that Truman was more than adequate with respect to growing socially and personally from co-curricular experiences, growing socially and personally from on-campus work, using writing as a mode of learning, growing socially and personally through on-campus residential experiences, growing intellectually from co-curricular experiences, developing study and time management skills, and generating topics for writing via critical thinking and discussion. Areas where alumni felt Truman was a little less than adequate were recognizing the unethical use of technology including copyright and privacy issues, understanding particular cultures through the study of foreign languages, understanding the unifying principles of life and repeatable patterns in nature, and understanding the social and aesthetic richness of different cultures.

Alumni were also asked how satisfied they were with the experiences and services at Truman. Overall, alumni seem to be more than satisfied with most services/experiences on campus. In particular, alumni appear to be really satisfied with the friendliness of campus, faculty enthusiasm for classes in the major, the accessibility of instructors in their respective majors, their sense of belonging to the campus, and the overall quality of instruction in the major. Alumni were less than satisfied, however, with the helpfulness of the Career Center in assisting them with career plans, the academic advising by residence hall/RCP advisors, the services available at the Career Center, and the helpfulness of faculty assisting them with career plans.

The alumni indicated that their major more than adequately prepared them with respect to their attitude of believing that learning is a life-long process, their ability to think critically, understanding multiple perspectives, finding information by interpreting and applying findings, and ability to apply knowledge in defining problems and solving them. The alumni were asked how adequately their Truman experience provided them with knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in a variety of areas. Alumni indicated that they were adequately prepared in all of the areas and especially prepared with respect to thinking critically, applying concepts from their area of study, performing effectively in their current position, getting along with others, writing effectively, and combining knowledge from multiple areas to solve problems.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Since graduating from Truman, 62.9% of the alumni responding to the survey indicated that they have attended graduate or professional school. The major reasons cited for continuing their education were to satisfy job/career requirements (29%), prepare for a new occupation (23.1%), and to increase their earning power/potential for promotion (20.8%). Of those continuing their education, 37.9% plan to obtain a masters degree and 45.3% plan to obtain a doctorate or professional degree.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The alumni were asked to indicate current employment status. The majority of the alumni (68.8%) indicated that they are employed full-time. 9% are employed part-time, 4.5% are continuing their education (formal study), 7.3% are employed and continuing their education, 7.3% are not employed outside of the home, and 2.2% are self-employed. When asked from which source they learned about the first full-time job they held after graduating, 15% of the alumni learned of the job from a newspaper/trade publication, 12.1% from the internet, 9.7% from the Career Center/Career Expo, and 9.4% from another student/friend.

Some alumni noted that knowing how to find job openings, writing a resume, vita, or letter of introduction, finding the kind of job they wanted, finding a job that paid enough, and deciding what they wanted to do were slight challenges they faced while obtaining their first job after graduation. Over 33% of the alumni indicated that they obtained a job prior to leaving college, 35.7% obtained a job within less than a month to 3 months, while 18.2% took over 12 months to find their first full-time job. The majority of the alumni have held 1 to 3 full-time jobs since completing their most recent degree from Truman.

Over 47% of the alumni indicated that their current occupation is highly related to their major at Truman and 19.4% indicated that their current occupation is not related to their major. Alumni are mostly satisfied with the challenge, location, working conditions, career potential, and benefits of their present job, but are not quite satisfied with their salary and advancement potential.

When asked to indicate the three areas that they would be most interested in financially supporting at Truman if they are able to do so, the top three areas selected were scholarships, their division or major, and where the need was greatest. Over 44% of the alumni indicated that they would be interested in taking Truman courses offered on the web, and 57% indicated that they would like to receive the Truman Newsletter via e-mail. Some are also willing to assist current students as 34.3% marked that they would be willing to serve as a resource for current students seeking career information.

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY ALUMNI SURVEY



Ophelia Parrish Performance Hall

Dear Graduate:

Assessment is an integral part of Truman State University's curricular and cultural development. As a graduate of our University, Truman is very interested in receiving your insight and opinions concerning your experiences at Truman. The Alumni Survey has a long history of serving as an indicator of institutional effectiveness, and your completion of it would be extremely helpful to your University. This survey is being sent to all alumni who graduated five or ten years ago to determine how well the University prepared you for your future work and life-long learning needs.

The alumni and their contributions to society as a whole continue to be a true source of pride for our faculty, staff, and students. We greatly appreciate your continued support of the Truman community, and we would greatly appreciate any information that you may wish to provide.

Your participation in this survey is yet another sign of the outstanding alumni that represent this University. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this project, and best wishes to you in the future.

Sincerely,

Barbara Dixon, President

PLEASE DO NOT WRITE IN THIS AREA

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Directions: The information you supply on this survey will be kept confidential. However, if any item requests information which you do not wish to provide, please feel free to omit it. Your Social Security Number is requested for research purposes only and will not be listed on any report. Thank you.

SECTION I - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Please begin by entering your social security number in the boxes at the top of block 1. Then in the columns below each box, blacken the appropriate bubble. Complete the remaining questions by blackening the single most appropriate bubble unless specified otherwise in the question.

1. Social Securit Number:	y 00000000000000000000000000000000000	0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000	and/or graduat
2. Gender: O Male	○ Female	6. Using the "List of Major	9888
3. How old are y 24 to 29 30 to 34 35 to 39	✓ 40 to 49 ✓ 50 or older	Codes" included with this survey, select the code for the major of the most recent degree you received from Truman.	999 999 999 999 999 999
Mark only on			999
	ic Islander .	7. Indicate the highest degree O Baccalaureate Degree O Master's Degree O Specialist's Degree O Doctoral Degree, e.g., PhD, O Professional Degree, e.g., M	EdD, Psy.D.

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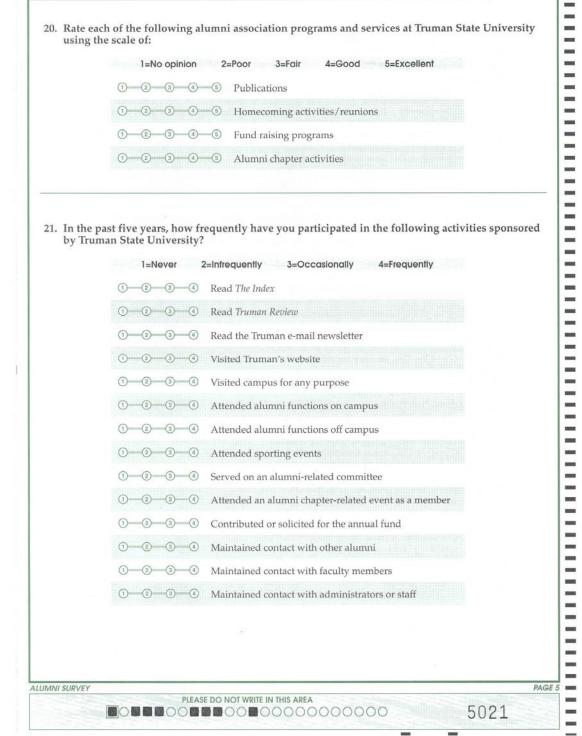
	a Work Collegenses		
	O Definitely better O Somewhat better O No difference O Somewhat worse O Definitely worse O Not applicable	b. Students in Educational Program O Definitely better O Somewhat better O No difference O Somewhat worse O Definitely worse O Not applicable	
7. How well d	o you believe you understand	the purpose of liberal arts and sciences?	
	O Very well O Well O Uncertain	O Poorly O Not at all	000
better than y	oline emphasis? Not as well	to you? That is, were you able to perform as well o earned degrees with non-liberal arts backgrounds O Better than	and
heavy discip	Our colleagues who may have oline emphasis? O Not as well As well	earned degrees with non-liberal arts backgrounds	or and
heavy discip	Our colleagues who may have bline emphasis? O Not as well O As well Our primary and secondary rea	earned degrees with non-liberal arts backgrounds O Better than O Unable to judge asons for completing your degree at Truman?	or and
9. What were y Primary re Size of Social a Type of Acader Advice To be w Cosst/C Locatio Availab	Our colleagues who may have bline emphasis? O Not as well O As well Our primary and secondary reason: school program atmosphere f programs available nic reputation of parents or relatives with friends Overall affordability	earned degrees with non-liberal arts backgrounds O Better than O Unable to judge	and

20. Rate each of the following alumni association programs and services at Truman State University using the scale of:

	т=ио ор	inion	2	=Poor 3=Fdir 4=Good 5=Excellent	
1)-	2 3	4	-(5)	Publications	
1)-	2 3	4	-(5)	Homecoming activities/reunions	
1	2 3	-4	-(5)	Fund raising programs	
1	2 3	4	-(5)	Alumni chapter activities	

21. In the past five years, how frequently have you participated in the following activities sponsored by Truman State University?

1=Never	2=Infrequently 3=Occasionally 4=Frequently
1-2-3-4	Read The Index
1-2-3-4	Read Truman Review
1 2 3 4	Read the Truman e-mail newsletter
0-2-3-0	Visited Truman's website
1-2-3-4	Visited campus for any purpose
1-2-3-4	Attended alumni functions on campus
1 2 3 4	Attended alumni functions off campus
1-2-3-4	Attended sporting events
1 2 3 4	Served on an alumni-related committee
1 2 3 4	Attended an alumni chapter-related event as a member
1 2 3 4	Contributed or solicited for the annual fund
0 2 3 4	Maintained contact with other alumni
1 2 3 4	Maintained contact with faculty members
1 2 3 4	Maintained contact with administrators or staff



22. How adequate do you feel the Liberal Studies Program or co-curriculum education/experiences at Truman were in each of the following? 2=Inadequate 3=Adequate 4=Very adequate 0=Does not apply 1=Very inadequate Generating topics for writing via critical thinking and discussion (1) (2) (3) -(4) Using speech skills appropriate to the topic, purpose, and audience 1 2 3 4 1 2 -3)--(4) Recognizing the unethical use of technology, including copyright and privacy issues Understanding the unifying principles of life and repeatable patterns (1)-2 3 in nature Interpreting and critically evaluating ethical and political issues and practices Using mathematics to study assumptions critically, reason logically, and arrive at sound conclusions Integrating approaches or methods from two or more disciplines Appreciating cultural diversity through studying one's own or other's societies Growing intellectually from co-curricular experiences Growing intellectually from on-campus work 3 Recognizing the importance of statistics from its use in research to its -(3) use in everyday life 0 2 3 4 Experiencing scientific research in a laboratory setting, including experimental design, collection and analysis of data, and interpretation of results Understanding citizenship and leadership in its broadest sense 2 3 4 (3)-Understanding the diversity of human experience and creative (2) -(4) expression as presented in literature Developing study and time management skills 3 4 Growing socially and personally from on-campus work Growing socially and personally through on-campus residential experiences Understanding your mental and physical health needs (3) 2 3 4 Understanding the social and aesthetic richness of different cultures -(3)-Responding or reacting to an aesthetic/artistic creation 2 -3--(4) Using writing as a mode of learning Understanding particular cultures through the study of foreign (3) (4) Growing socially and personally from co-curricular experiences -(4) Growing intellectually from on-campus residential experiences

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0-00011010	apply 1=Very disso	atisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3=Satisfied 4=Very satisfied
0-1-2	Opportun activities	nities to be involved in student life and co-curricular
0 1 2		nities to interact with faculty outside of class
0-1-2-		teaching strategies
0 0 2		ess of the campus
0 1 2		e of belonging on this campus
0 1 2		all impression of general education/LSP courses
0 0 2	3 4 Faculty en	nthusiasm for general education/LSP classes
0 0 2	3 4 Your over	all impression of courses in your major
0 1 2		uality of instruction in your major
0 0 2		nthusiasm for classes in the major
0 1 2		lity of instructors in your major
0 0 0	a a	ty of courses offered in your major
0 0 2		advising by faculty advisor in your major
0 0 0		advising by your residence hall/RCP advisor
0 0 0		of non-teaching staff toward students
0 0 2		us work experiences
0 0		f feedback from faculty
0 0 2	0 0	al climate on the campus
		of faculty toward students or you as an individual
0-0-2-		ulness of faculty in assisting you with career plans
0 0 0		ulness of the Career Center in assisting you with career
0 1 2		res available at the Career Center
		pared you in each of the following?
		tely 2=Inadequately 3=Adequately 4=Very adequately
0 0 0		ge of — Modes of inquiry or processes of your major
0 0 0		ge of — Subject matter of your major
0 1 2		ge of — Issues and trends pertinent to your specialty
0 0 0	S .	ge of — Theories pertinent to your specialty ge of — Scholars who are associated with the major
0 1 2		— Apply knowledge in defining problems and solving then
0 0	3 4 Ability to	Find information; interpret and apply findings Think critically
0 0 2	(3)—(4) Ability to	
0 0 0		of — Believing that learning is a life-long process
0 0 0	③──④ Attitude o	of — Believing that learning is a life-long process of — Understanding multiple perspectives
0 0 0 0 0 0	③──④ Attitude o	

, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	equately 3=Adequately 4=Very adequately
① ① ② ③ ④ Think critically	
① ① ② ③ ④ Get along with others	
(0) (1) (2) (3) (4) Contribute as a citizen	of the community
Exercise leadership	
① ① ② ③ ④ Demonstrate computer	literacy
① ① ② ③ ④ Speak and present effect ① ① ② ③ ④ Write effectively.	tively
o o o write electively	
① ① ② ③ ④ Use statistical informati ② ① ② ③ ④ Demonstrate math and	on
Demonstrate matri allu	ts of healthy, balanced living
① ① ② ③ ④ Appreciate art and litera	ature
Understand the importa	ince of and utilize historical information
Develop a personal valu	ie system
(1) (2) (3) (4) Make informed and eth	ical decisions
① ① ② ③ ④ Apply scientific information in (a) ① ② ③ ④ Understand human hab	tion and reasoning
O Chaerstand human ben	
Oliderstand cultural inf	uences
Combine knowledge in	m multiple areas to solve problems
 ① ① ② ③ ④ Apply concepts from an ① ① ② ③ ④ Perform effectively in concepts 	er or study
	I since graduating from Truman?
CTION III – CONTINUING EDUCATION Have you attended graduate or professional schoo Yes (Please continue with question 27) No (Please skip to Section IV-Employment History)	l since graduating from Truman?
. Have you attended graduate or professional schoo O Yes (Please continue with question 27)	
Have you attended graduate or professional schoo Yes (Please continue with question 27) No (Please skip to Section IV-Employment History) What is the major reason you continued your educe To satisfy job/career requirements To prepare for a new occupation	ation? Mark only one. O To obtain or maintain a license or certification O For general self-improvement
Have you attended graduate or professional schoology (Please continue with question 27) No (Please skip to Section IV-Employment History) What is the major reason you continued your eduction To satisfy job/career requirements To prepare for a new occupation To increase earning power/potential for promotion What is the highest degree you plan to obtain? Master's degree Master of Arts in Education degree	ation? Mark only one. O To obtain or maintain a license or certification O For general self-improvement Other, specify: O Professional degree, e.g. M.D., D.O., J.D. O Doctorate, e.g. PhD, EdD, Psy.D.

please move to Section IV.	study was not taken as a degree-seeking student,
Area of degree study pursued:	
University attended for degree study:	
Degree attained or anticipated:	
Date of receipt of the degree received or anticipated	
ECTION IV - EMPLOYMENT HISTORY	
lease respond to the following questions related ruman. Complete only the parts of this section v	
ruman. Complete only the parts of this section v	vinen apply to you.
30. Which of the following best describes what you are currently doing? Mark only one. Employed full-time Employed part-time Self-employed (farm or business owner, etc.) Serving in the armed forces Full-time service (Peace Corp, AmeriCorp, etc.) Continuing my education (formal study) Employed and continuing my education Not employed outside of the home Other	31. From which source did you learn about the first full-time job you held after graduating from Truman? Mark only one. Career Center/Career Expo University faculty advisor Faculty at the university Parent or relative Newspaper/trade publication Internet Professional meeting Internship Another student/friend Recruited by employer Public/private employment agency Other
32. Indicate whether each of the following was a sig problem in obtaining your first job after gradua	tion:
3=Significant challenge 2=Slight	challenge 1=Not a problem
3 2 1 Deciding what I was 3 2 1 Knowing how to fi	anted to do
3 2 1 Scheduling interview	PWS
3 2 0 Writing a résumé, v 3 2 0 Finding a job that p	vita, or letter of introduction
3 2 ① Completing job app	
3 ② ① Finding a job for w	hich I was prepared
3 2 1 Finding a job when 3 2 1 Finding the kind of	

	Obtained the job prior to leavi Less than one month 1 to 3 months	ng college	○ 4 to 6 months ○ 7 to 12 months ○ Over 12 months	3
34.	Indicate the number of difference from Truman.	ent full-time jo	bs you have held sin	ace completing your most recent
	One O Two	O Three	OFour	O Five or more
35.	How closely related is your cu	rrent occupati	on to your major at T	ruman?
	O Highly related O Mo	derately related	O Slightly re	lated O Not related
36.	Indicate your satisfaction with	n the following	; aspects of your pres	sent job:
	1=Very dissatisfied			4=Very satisfied
	0- 0- 0- 0-	2	Challenge Location Salary Benefits Advancement potenti Working conditions Career potential	al
37.	Please indicate the <u>three</u> areas Truman if you are able to do s	which you wo	ould be <u>most</u> intereste	ed in financially supporting at
	O Where the need is greatest O Scholarships O Recruitment of students O Your division or major O Faculty salaries	O Cap	n funds oital support for buildin f support/recognition letics	gs/renovations
38.	Truman is beginning to offer of in taking Truman courses thro	ourses on the ugh this metho	web. As an alumnus od?	/alumna, would you be interested
	O Yes O No			
	If yes, what topics would inter	est you?		
				· ·
	SURVEY			

SECTION V - MAILING ADDRESSES NOTE: The following information is used only to update our address files and is not used in any way with the survey response output. These addresses are shared with the Office of = Advancement. Thank you! Please print your NAME and CURRENT ADDRESS on the lines provided below: Last Name Maiden Name First Name Street Address/P.O. Box Zip Code State Office Telephone Number Home Telephone Number E-mail O Yes O No Would you like to receive the Truman Newsletter via e-mail? Please print the NAME and ADDRESS of someone who can FORWARD mail to you should you move: Last Name MI Maiden Name First Name Street Address/P.O. Box Zip Code City MENTOR INFORMATION: If you are willing to serve as a resource for current students seeking career information, please provide at least your name and address in Section V-Mailing Addresses and mark this circle to allow your information to be released to the Career Center:

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Name of Organization/Emplo	NOT.	
Traine or organization/Emplo	75	
Name of Your Human Resour	rces Contact Person	
Street Address/P.O. Box		
City	State	Zip Code
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Area Code/Telephone Number	1	
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		The second secon
		All Parish
	extend our appreciation to you for giving your thoughts and suggestions. Best wish	
input, and for sharing		nes to you! THANK YOU!