Chapter IX: ALUMNI SURVEY

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

When is it administered? Every year during the late summer/early fall.

What office administers it? Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the survey? ACT and Truman State University.

When are the results typically available? In the Spring.

What type of information is sought?

The Alumni Survey first 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 whom are the results available? The Assessment and Testing Office, Violette Hall 1130.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

University averages are sent to the President, VPAA, Deans, Assessment Committee, selected administrators, and to the campus community through this *Almanac*.

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

Are the results comparable to data of other universities? No.

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FY06 ALUMNI SURVEY

FY 1995 AND FY 2000 GRADUATES

SUMMARY OF RESPONSES

JUNE 2006

ALUMNI SURVEY SUMMARY

The 2005 Alumni Survey was mailed to alumni who graduated in fiscal year 1995 or 2000 with either a baccalaureate or graduate degree from Truman. A total of 2,323 surveys were mailed in November. 395 or 17% 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 58 pages in length and may be shared electronically in an SPSS file if desired.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The survey was completed by alumni, consisting of 29.7% males and 70.3% females, predominately white, non-Hispanics between the ages of 24 and 34. Among respondents 37.2% of the alumni now hold baccalaureate degrees while 49.1% hold master's degrees and 12.2% hold doctoral or professional degrees. During their years at Truman, 73.9% were classified as in-state and 25.9% were classified as out-of-state residents. Only 9.4% of the respondents transferred to Truman from another college or university. 53% attended Truman for four years or less while 30% attended for five years and 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. 47.6% of the alumni now reside in the state of Missouri and 22% reside in a bordering state.

COLLEGE EXPERIENCES

Of the 395 alumni, 84.3% would probably or definitely choose to attend Truman again if they could start college over. Regarding their major 66.4% would probably or definitely choose to graduate with the same major, while 22.9% would probably or definitely not choose the same major. Attitudes toward Truman were positive as 85.5% felt that their college education prepared them well for their career and 91.5% felt that it prepared them well for post-baccalaureate study. Relative to other institutions, almost 79% felt that their academic preparation was better than their current work colleagues' and 71.7% felt it was better than the students' in their post-baccalaureate educational programs. Over 86% of the alumni believe that they understand the purpose of liberal arts and sciences, and 96.8% 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, 95.2% have read the <u>Truman Review</u>; 77% have visited Truman's website, 62.6% have visited campus, 46.8% have read the *Index*, 42.6% contributed to or solicited for the

annual fund, and 35.7% read the emailed newsletter. However, 91% have never attended an alumni function on campus, 84.4% have never attended an alumni function off campus, and 94.1% have never attended an alumni chapter-related event as a member. As might be expected, 98.5% have never served on an alumni-related committee, 84.7% have never attended sporting events, and 57.4% have never contributed to or solicited for the annual fund. However 93.1% have maintained some contact with other alumni, 58.5% with faculty members, and 23.7% 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 cocurricular experiences, using writing as a mode of learning, growing socially and personally through on-campus residential experiences, growing intellectually from cocurricular 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, and understanding the unifying principles of life and repeatable patterns in nature.

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, the overall impression of courses in their major, 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, and finding information by interpreting and applying findings. 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 getting along with others, writing effectively, thinking critically, performing effectively in their current position, applying concepts from their area of study, 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 (31.3%), prepare for a new occupation (23.6%), and to increase their earning power/potential for promotion (20.3%). Of those continuing their education, 38.8% plan to obtain a masters degree and 46.7% plan to obtain a doctorate or professional degree.

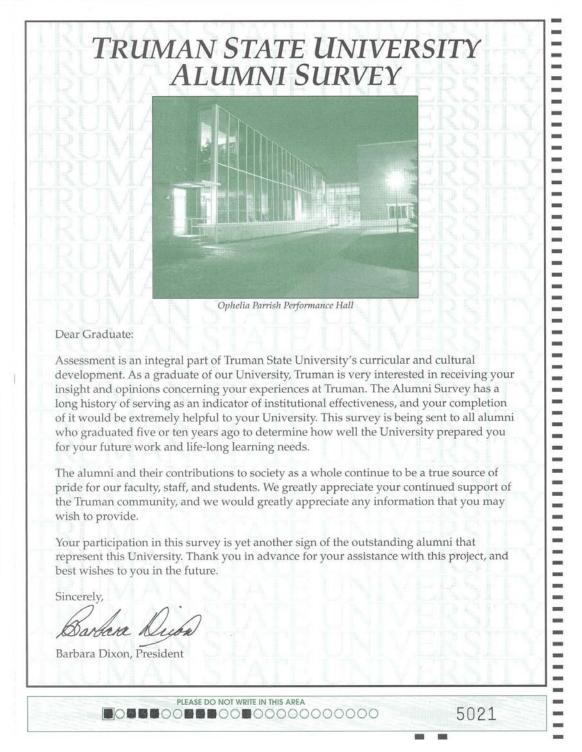
EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

The alumni were asked to indicate current employment status. The majority of the alumni (67.9%) indicated that they are employed full-time. 7.5% are continuing their education (formal study), 8.7% are not employed outside of the home, and 5.4% are self-employed. When asked from which source they learned about the first full-time job they held after graduating, 19.6% of the alumni learned of the job from a newspaper/trade publication, 11.9% from the internet, 9.8% from another student/friend, and 8.2% from the Career Center/Career Expo.

Some alumni noted that finding a job that paid enough, deciding what they wanted to do, finding the kind of job they wanted, and knowing how to find job openings were slight challenges they faced while obtaining their first job after graduation. Almost 35% of the alumni indicated that they obtained a job prior to leaving college, 40.7% obtained a job within less than a month to 3 months, while 14.4% took over 12 months to find their first full-time job. The majority of the alumni have held 2 to 3 different full-time jobs since completing their most recent degree from Truman.

Almost 52% of the alumni indicated that their current occupation is highly related to their major at Truman and 16.4% indicated that their current occupation is not related to their major. Alumni are mostly satisfied with the challenge, location, working conditions, career potential, benefits of their present job, and advancement potential, but are not quite satisfied with their salary.

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. 51% of the alumni indicated that they would be interested in taking Truman courses offered on the web, and 59.7% indicated that they would like to receive the Truman Newsletter via e-mail. Some are also willing to assist current students as 31.4% marked that they would be willing to serve as a resource for current students seeking career information.

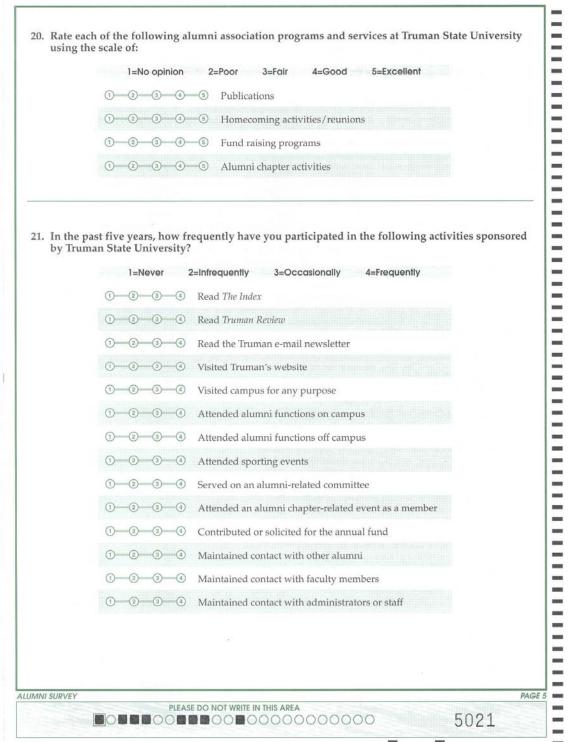


Directions: The information you supply on this survey will be kept confidential. However, if any item requests information which you do not wish to provide, please feel free to omit it. Your Social Security Number is requested for research purposes only and will not be listed on any report. Thank you.

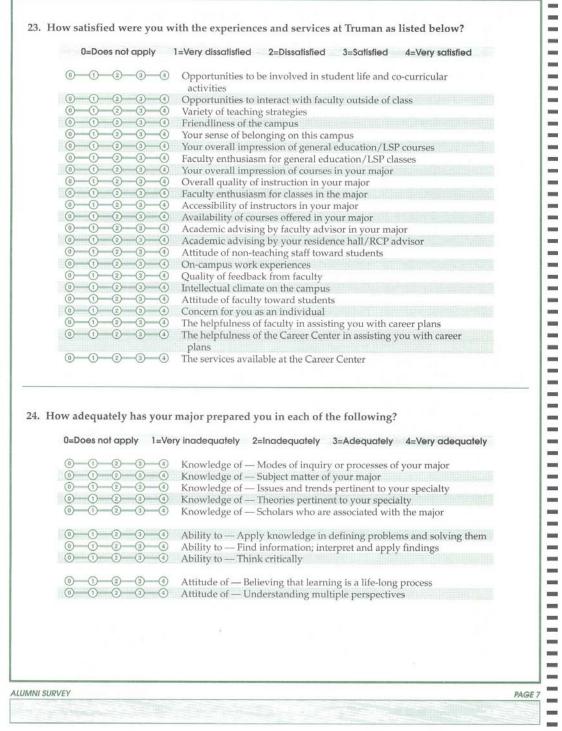
-SECTION I - BACKGROUND INFORMATION -_ Please begin by entering your social security number in the boxes at the top of block 1. Then in the columns below each box, blacken the appropriate bubble. Complete the remaining questions by blackening the single most appropriate bubble unless specified otherwise in the question. -Correct Mark: O USE NO. 2 PENCIL ONLY Incorrect Marks: Ø800 -2 1. Social Security -5. Please indicate the year in which you were granted your baccalaureate and/or graduate _ Number: degree from Truman State University. 0000000000-Baccalaureate Graduate _ -0000 0000 0000 -2222 3333 3333 444 4444 9999999999 5555 5555 6666 6666 0000 0000 8888 8888 Ξ 9999 9999 2. Gender: O Male O Female -6. Using the "List of Major -Codes" included with this survey, select the code for the -3. How old are you? major of the most recent _ degree you received from O 24 to 29 O 40 to 49 Truman. _ O 30 to 34 ○ 50 or older 444 O 35 to 39 = 666 000 -888 _ 999 4. How would you describe yourself? Mark only one: -O African American/Black, non-Hispanic 7. Indicate the highest degree you now hold: -O American Indian/Alaskan Native -0 White, non-Hispanic O Baccalaureate Degree O Hispanic -O Master's Degree O Asian/Pacific Islander O Specialist's Degree O Doctoral Degree, e.g., PhD, EdD, Psy.D. O Professional Degree, e.g., MD, DO, JD O Other -O Prefer not to respond -O Other --ALUMNI SURVEY PAGE 2 --

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ECTION IV – EMPLOYMENT HISTORY Please respond to the following questions related fruman. Complete only the parts of this section w 30. Which of the following best describes what you are currently doing? Mark only one. Bemployed full-time Bemployed full-time Bemployed full-time Bemployed full-time Bemployed full-time Bemployed (farm or business owner, etc.) Berving in the armed forces Be	
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Degree attained or anticipated:	
University attended for degree study:	
Area of degree study pursued:	

	 Obtained the job prior to leaving college Less than one month 1 to 3 months O Ver 12 months
34.	Indicate the number of different full-time jobs you have held since completing your most recent degree from Truman.
	O One O Two O Three O Four O Five or more
35.	How closely related is your current occupation to your major at Truman?
	○ Highly related ○ Moderately related ○ Slightly related ○ Not related
36.	Indicate your satisfaction with the following aspects of your present job:
	1=Very dissatisfied 2=Dissatisfied 3=Satisfied 4=Very satisfied
	① ② ③ ① Location ① ② ④ Salary ① ③ ④ Benefits ① ③ ④ Advancement potential ○ ③ ④ Working conditions ① ③ ④ ④ ① ③ ④ Career potential
37.	Please indicate the <u>three</u> areas which you would be <u>most</u> interested in financially supporting at Truman if you are able to do so:
	 Where the need is greatest Scholarships Recruitment of students Your division or major Faculty salaries Loan funds Capital support for buildings/renovations Capital support/recognition Athletics
38.	Truman is beginning to offer courses on the web. As an alumnus/alumna, would you be interested in taking Truman courses through this method?
	If yes, what topics would interest you?
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