

# Report of the Results of the 2007 BGSU Short-Term and Long-Term Alumni Questionnaires

Abstract .....	1
Background and Methodology .....	1
Results:	
Employment .....	3
Continued Education .....	6
Gains and Emphasis .....	7
Satisfaction with the University .....	9
Questions Related to Alumni Association Programs and Services .....	10
Open-Ended Questionnaire Responses .....	15
Summary and Conclusions .....	18

## ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of the 2007 administration of the BGSU Short-Term Alumni Questionnaire (2005 Bachelor's Degree graduates) and the BGSU Long-Term Alumni Questionnaire (2001 Bachelor's Degree graduates). The questionnaires were designed to collect information about the employment and continued education activities of alumni, their educational and personal gains as a result of their BGSU education, their satisfaction with various aspects of the University, and their participation with various Alumni Association programs and services. The results of the surveys could be used to support the University's assessment priority.

## BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The need for information about the post-graduation activities and perceptions of alumni prompted the development of the BGSU Short-Term and Long-Term Alumni\* Questionnaires in late 1997. This information constitutes a critical component of BGSU's assessment efforts. Since no single commercially-available questionnaire would provide the data specifically needed by BGSU in a timely and cost effective manner, short-term and long-term alumni questionnaires were developed by the Office of Institutional Research in 1997 following widespread consultation with various sectors of the University. The questionnaires were administered to BGSU baccalaureate alumni in 1998, 2001, 2004, and 2007.

Web-based questionnaires were used to collect data in 2007. Total valid email address of nine hundred and twenty-three 2005 baccalaureate alumni and one thousand and twenty 2001 baccalaureate alumni were provided by Alumni Office for this study. The first survey invitation messages were out on

---

\* *Short-Term Alumni* are baccalaureate alumni who graduated from BGSU one to two years before the time the survey was conducted. *Long-Term Alumni* are baccalaureate alumni who graduated from BGSU five to six years before the time the survey was conducted.)

September 5, and several reminders were sent in late September and mid-October. A total of 198 short-term alumni and 165 long-term alumni answered the questionnaires. The response rates are shown below.

### Survey Methods and Response

	2007 Web Survey		2004 Web Survey		2001 Paper Survey		1998 Paper Survey	
	Total Number of Respondents	Response Rate	Total Number of Respondents	Response Rate	Total Number of Respondents	Response Rate	Total Number of Respondents	Response Rate
Long-Term Alumni	165	16%	392	17%	410	18%	608	25%
Short-Term Alumni	198	22%	386	14%	616	23%	786	27%

To examine how representative the survey respondents were of the entire 2001 and 2005 BGSU baccalaureate alumni, the demographic characteristics of the survey respondents were compared to the population. As shown on the table below the survey respondents, in general, mirror the population in terms of gender and ethnicity. The proportion of respondents in the College of Education and Human Development are somewhat lower than in the population. This limitation and the small size of respondents require that all results from this survey be interpreted with some caution.

	Long-Term (2001) Alumni		Short-Term (2005) Alumni	
	Survey Respondents	2001 Bachelor's Degree Graduates	Survey Respondents	2005 Bachelor's Degree Graduates
<b>Gender:</b>				
Female	59%	62%	63%	59%
Male	41%	38%	37%	41%
<b>Race:</b>				
Minorities	6%	5%	9%	8%
European-American	93%	92%	89%	89%
Other	1%	3%	2%	3%
<b>College:</b>				
Arts and Sciences	39%	36%	35%	34%
Business Administration	14%	14%	17%	14%
Education and Human Development	24%	30%	24%	32%
Health and Human Services	9%	12%	7%	9%
Musical Arts	6%	3%	6%	2%
Technology	8%	6%	11%	9%

Alumni questionnaire results were analyzed by noting the percentages of respondents who provided each response to each questionnaire item. Percentages may not always sum to 100 due to rounding. Results were also compared with those of previous administration of the surveys if they are comparable\*. In addition, group differences (female vs. male, minorities vs. European-Americans, and college vs. college) were investigated for this year's survey and significant differences are noted where they occurred.

---

\* The survey has been re-designed and formatted in 2007 so some of the questions are not parallel to those of previous ones.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Which best describes your current employment status?

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
employed full-time in a job related to my major	68	74	65	69	55	61
employed part-time in a job related to my major	4	4	4	3	6	4
employed full-time in a job unrelated to my major	19	17	19	16	19	20
employed part-time in a job unrelated to my major	3	1	2	2	4	5
employed as a graduate assistant	1	1	2	6	10	7
unemployed and seeking employment	1	2	2	2	5	3
unemployed and not seeking employment	4	3	6	2	1	2

The great majority of respondents, both long-term and short-term, indicated that they currently were employed full-time in jobs either related to their majors or unrelated to their majors. 2001 alumni of College of Arts and Sciences as well as College of Musical Arts, however, were less likely than the 2001 alumni in the other four colleges to hold full-time jobs that are related to their field of study.

### What is the annual salary of your current job? (Long-Term Alumni)

### What was the annual salary of your first job after graduation? (Short-Term Alumni)

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
less than \$20,000	10	8	11	18	29	22
\$20,000 - \$29,999	13	12	10	46	38	33
\$30,000 - \$39,999	30	32	23	28	22	30
\$40,000 - \$49,999	17	20	19	7	8	12
\$50,000 - \$59,999	12	13	14	1	2	3
\$60,000 - \$74,999	11	9	12	0	0	0
\$75,000 and above	7	6	11	0	1	1

Eighty five percent or more of the BGSU alumni had an annual salary of \$39,99 or less after they graduated from BGSU for one or two years and the number increased substantially by the time they left school for five or six years. 2001 alumni were also more likely to report an income of \$50,000 or more per year than were the long-term alumni in previous years.

Alumni who graduated from the College of Business Administration, the College of Health and Human Services, and the College of Technology reported higher annual earning than did alumni who graduated from the three other colleges, no matter if the job was a first one or a current one. While 39% of 2001 male respondents indicated that they currently earn \$60,000 or more per year, only 12% of females agreed so.

**How satisfied are you with your current job? (Long-Term Alumni)**  
**How satisfied were you with your first job after graduation? (Short-Term Alumni)**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very Satisfied	51	40	38	35	29	29
Satisfied	42	51	43	47	46	45
Dissatisfied	7	8	14	13	19	19
Very Dissatisfied	1	1	6	6	6	6

**How satisfied are you with the way BGSU prepared you  
for your current job? (Long-Term Alumni)**  
**How satisfied are you with the way BGSU prepared you  
for your first job after graduation? (Short-Term Alumni)**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Very Satisfied	34	29	31	22	20	20
Satisfied	56	65	59	63	61	62
Dissatisfied	8	5	6	11	13	15
Very Dissatisfied	3	2	4	3	6	4

The majorities of the respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with their current/first jobs and were happy with the way BGSU prepared them for their jobs. 2001 alumni, however, were somewhat less satisfied with their current jobs than were alumni in 1995 and 1998, especially for those who graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Development.

**How many different jobs have you had since you graduated from BGSU?**

	Long-Term Alumni only		
	1995	1998	2001
	%	%	%
None	5	1	3
One	13	22	18
Two	32	34	22
Three or more	50	43	57

Ninety five percent or more of the respondents indicated that they have changed jobs at least once since they left BGSU. Business Administration alumni changed their jobs less often than did the alumni in the five other colleges.

**What methods did you use to find your first job after you graduated from BGSU?  
(Choose all that apply)**

	Short-Term Alumni only		
	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%
Personal contacts/networking	52	56	42
Other	NA	NA	40
BGSU Career Services	25	28	23
Newspaper ad	26	27	18
Co-op/internship contacts	19	16	18
Other BGSU contacts	5	7	12
BGSU faculty	10	12	11
Employment agency	6	12	6
Recruiter	7	9	6
Alumni career programs	1	1	1

Personal contacts/networking and other methods that are not listed on the survey were more frequently used by BGSU graduates to find their first job. While graduates from the College of Business of Administration were most likely to land their first job through BGSU's Career Center, Musical Arts graduates were most likely to get their job through BGSU faculty as well as other personal contacts/networking.

**How long did it take you to get your first job after you graduated from BGSU?**

	Short-Term Alumni only		
	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%
I continued in a job I already had	10	14	16
I found a job before graduation	34	27	31
less than 3 months	31	28	24
3 to 6 months	16	14	14
6 to 12 months	6	10	9
more than 12 months	2	8	7

The vast majorities of the survey respondents had their first job either before graduation or within six month after they have left BGSU. Compared with respondents in the four other colleges, Technology and Business Administration graduates were more likely to continue in the jobs they already had while they were at BGSU or find a job before graduation.

**If you are required to take a licensing or certification examination related to your area of study at BGSU, please choose one of the following options:**

	Short-Term Alumni only		
	1999	2002	2005
I have taken and passed the examination	92%	85%	86%
I have taken the exam but do not yet know the results	2%	9%	11%
I have taken the exam but did not pass	6%	6%	3%

## CONTINUED EDUCATION

**Since graduation from BGSU have you completed any additional college courses?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No	40	44	43	67	51	62
Yes, I've completed courses, but not towards another degree.	16	12	12	9	9	6
Yes, I've completed courses towards another Bachelor's degree, but haven't yet earned it.	2	1	2	2	1	1
Yes, I've completed courses towards and earned another bachelor's Degree.	1	1	1	0	0	0
Yes, I've completed courses towards a Master's Degree, but haven't yet earned it.	17	15	12	17	29	15
Yes, I've completed courses towards and earned a Master's Degree.	20	23	20	3	6	8
Yes, I've completed courses towards a doctoral degree, but haven't yet earned it.	2	1	4	2	2	4
Yes, I've completed courses towards and earned a doctoral degree.	1	1	1	2	0	0
Yes, I've completed courses towards a law or medical degree, but haven't yet earned it.	1	1	1	0	2	3
Yes, I've completed courses towards and earned a law or medical degree.	1	2	5	1	0	0

**What is the most important reason that you continued your education after graduating from BGSU?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
for continued career preparation	49	49	44	53	57	57
for preparation for a new career	16	17	27	14	14	23
to increase my earnings	24	22	16	24	19	16
for general self-improvement	12	13	14	8	11	4

Roughly one third of short-term respondents and a half of long-term respondents reported that they have completed additional college courses since graduation from BGSU, and career preparation seems to be the major reason for most of them to do so. 2005 minority graduates were more likely to pursue a Master or Law/medical degree than were European American graduates.

**How satisfied are you with the way BGSU prepared you for additional college work?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
Very Satisfied	37%	38%	31%	25%	31%	41%
Satisfied	59%	58%	64%	69%	62%	53%
Dissatisfied	3%	2%	3%	5%	5%	6%
Very Dissatisfied	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0%

The vast majority of those who have continued their education after graduation were satisfied or very satisfied with the way BGSU prepared them for additional college work.

## GAINS AND EMPHASIS

**For each of the following items, please indicate how much you feel you have gained as a result of your BGSU education. (Percentage "Quite a Bit" or "Very Much")**

	Long-Term Alumni Only		
	1995	1998	2001
	%	%	%
being open to new ideas	72	80	80
developing knowledge and skills applicable to a career	68	78	78
making informed judgments	62	75	75
relating to others	65	74	77
thinking critically	63	74	72
understanding my own abilities, interests, and values	56	72	75
writing effectively	66	70	73
making connections between things I have learned in class and other experiences in my life	52	70	72
using computers	49	70	74
being prepared for further education	63	68	67
solving problems	60	67	68
speaking effectively	54	66	65
making connections between the classes I have taken	52	65	64
developing a better understanding of my career goals	45	61	60
understanding cultural, racial and gender differences and how they relate to me, my field of study, and my future career	50	57	59

Like the 1998 alumni, the 2001 alumni were more likely than those of 1995 to indicate that they benefited quite a bit or very much in all the items listed on the survey as a result of their BGSU education. Technology alumni were most likely to agree that they have gained very much in using computers, but least likely to say that they have gained a lot in understanding cultural, racial and gender differences and how they relate to them, their field of study, and their future career.

**For each of the following items, please indicate how much emphasis  
you feel BGSU should place in each area**

	Long-Term 2001 Alumni Only		
	Need to Emphasize More	About the Right Emphasis	Need to Emphasize Less
	%	%	
developing a better understanding of my career goals	49	50	1
developing knowledge and skills applicable to a career	46	54	0
speaking effectively	42	58	0
writing effectively	40	59	1
thinking critically	36	64	0
making connections between things I have learned in class and other experiences in my life	36	62	2
making connections between the classes I have taken	35	64	1
solving problems	34	66	0
being prepared for further education	34	65	1
understanding cultural, racial and gender differences and how they relate to me, my field of study, and my future career	34	57	9
being open to new ideas	32	67	1
using computers	31	66	3
making informed judgments	29	71	0
understanding my own abilities, interests, and values	29	71	1
relating to others	21	79	0

Sizable percentages of 2001 alumni think that BGSU could emphasize more in the skills and the knowledge that relate to students' career and further education preparation. Male respondents were more likely than females to point out that BGSU should emphasize more speaking effectively and using computers; minority respondents were more likely than their counterpart to say that BGSU could emphasize more thinking critically and making informed judgments; while Musical Arts alumni were most likely to feel that BGSU could focus more in making connections between different classes, Arts and Sciences alumni were most likely to think that developing knowledge and skills applicable to a career is the area to which BGSU should pay more attention.



## SATISFACTION WITH THE UNIVERSITY

**How satisfied are you with each of the following aspects of the department or college from which you earned your BGSU degree? (Percent "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied")**

	Short-Term Alumni Only		
	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%
the overall quality of instruction	94	95	94
the overall quality of advising	69	74	76
ease of access to instructors	92	95	96
helpfulness in preparing for employment	74	73	72
helpfulness in preparing for further education	80	86	80
concern for me as an individual	79	83	86

**How satisfied with each of the following aspects of BGSU outside of the department or college from which you earned your degree (Percent Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied")**

	Short-Term Alumni Only		
	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%
the overall quality of instruction	93	94	96
the overall quality of advising	NA	NA	78
ease of access to instructors	88	89	90
helpfulness in preparing for employment	73	70	75
helpfulness in preparing for further education	80	80	81
concern for me as an individual	73	76	80

The majority of the short-term respondents were satisfied or very satisfied with all the aspects listed on the survey, either inside their department/college or outside of the department/college from which they earned their bachelor's degree. Compared with European American alumni, 2005 minority alumni were less likely to report that they were satisfied with the help they got from their departments and colleges in preparing for further education. Among the alumni in the six colleges, Musical Arts graduates were least likely to say that it was easy for them to access to instructors outside of their departments and college.

**Regardless of the financial benefits,  
has your college education improved the quality of your life so far?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely	75	79	77	66	64	64
Probably	20	20	18	27	29	29
Probably not	4	2	2	4	7	4
Definitely not	2	1	3	3	1	3

Long-term alumni more frequently indicated that their college education definitely improved the quality of their lives regardless of the financial benefits than did short-term alumni.

**If you could start college over again, would you choose to enroll at BGSU?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely	50	55	53	42	48	47
Probably	38	35	32	43	41	38
Probably Not	9	8	10	13	8	12
Definitely Not	3	2	5	3	3	3

**If you could start college over again, would you choose the same major?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2001
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely	32	36	29	37	40	41
Probably	35	34	35	32	31	25
Probably Not	26	22	26	25	23	22
Definitely Not	7	8	10	6	7	12

**Would you encourage others to enroll at BGSU?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Definitely	66	73	71	57	63	65
Probably	30	24	24	37	31	30
Probably Not	3	3	3	4	4	4
Definitely Not	2	1	2	2	2	2

The majority of survey respondents claimed that they definitely or probably would enroll at BGSU if they could start college again and that they definitely would encourage others to enroll at BGSU as well. Thirty percent or more of them might not choose the same major again, though.

**QUESTIONS RELATED TO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

**Do you consider yourself a member of the BGSU Alumni Association?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	NA	42	41	NA	39	35
No	NA	27	30	NA	24	29
Not Sure	NA	31	29	NA	38	36

**What is your preferred method of communication  
from BGSU Alumni Association?**

	2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni
E-mail	82%	88%
Telephone	0%	1%
US Mail	6%	7%
No contact	12%	5%

**How often would you like us to contact you on information  
related to alumni association events and happenings?**

	2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni
Once per week	5%	8%
More than once per week	1%	1%
Once per month	81%	81%
Twice per month	13%	10%

The majority of survey respondents preferred to hear from BGSU Alumni Association through email once a month.

**Please indicate if you have participated in any of these Alumni Association programs  
since your graduation and whether you will participate them in future.**

Have You Participated? (Percent "Yes")			Will You Participate? (Percent "Yes")	
2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni		2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni
18	9	Alumni Chapter Activities	45	44
23	16	Alumni gatherings at athletic events	60	61
43	36	Alumni Merchandise	72	70
39	27	Alumni Association Website	61	59
76	64	E-Ziggy (electronic newsletter)	73	70
3	6	Grad med-short-term insurance	2	3
37	31	Homecoming	59	61
7	6	Bank of America Credit Card	14	12
5	6	consolidation program	8	11

BGSU alumni, in general, were more interested in reading E-Ziggy, accessing the Alumni Association's website, buying alumni merchandise, attending Homecoming, and participating in alumni gatherings at athletic events as well as Alumni Chapter activities than in joining the consolidation program and having/using the Bank of America Credit Card and Grad Med-Short-Term Insurance. Minority alumni, however, were more likely than European American alumni to claim that they will participate in the Bank of America Credit Card program in future.

2001 alumni were more likely than 2005 alumni to report that they have participated in most of the programs listed on the table above. Among 2001 respondents, males were more likely than females to say that they have attended Homecoming and alumni gatherings at athletic events. They were also more

likely to express their interests in future Homecoming events than did their counterparts. Among 2005 respondents, Business Administration alumni were most likely to have attended Alumni Chapter activities, and females were more likely to have bought alumni merchandise.

**What prompted you to return to BGSU for Homecoming if you have returned to it since your graduation? (check all that apply)**

	2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni
	%	%
Mailing/Promotion/Invitation	23	16
Seeing Classmates	70	83
Cultural Event	10	10
Football Game	60	66
Community	30	33
Other	28	26

About one third of the survey respondents reported that they have returned BGSU for Homecoming (see table in previous page), and most of them indicated that seeing classmates and the football game were the reasons for them to do so.

**What types of future homecoming activities would you be interested in attending if you will return to BGSU for Homecoming ? (check all that apply)**

	2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni
	%	%
Pre-Game Tent	78	86
Academic Programs	20	11
Cultural Event (theatre or music performance)	41	29
College or Department Reunion	57	53
Student Group Reunion	53	51
Other	28	23

One hundred and thirteen 2005 alumni and ninety-two 2001 alumni said that they will return to BGSU for Homecoming, and most of them were interested in visiting the pre-game tent as well as college, department, or student group reunions.

Among the 2005 respondents, Musical Arts graduates were most likely to express their interests in cultural events and student group reunions. While 2005 female alumni will be more likely to participate in cultural events in future, 2001 male alumni will be more likely to attend “other” activities during the Homecoming weekend.

**Please indicate alumni chapter activities that interest you: (choose all that apply)**

	2001 Alumni	2005 Alumni
	%	%
Networking Events (Happy Hours, Business Card parties)	83	81
Community Service Activities	50	54
Student Recruitment	35	25
University Guest Speaker at Regional Program	13	11
Other	18	9

Both 2005 and 2001 alumni showed their preference of participating in networking events and community services over other activities listed in the table above.

Among the 2005 alumni, females were more likely than males to express their interests in community service; Minorities were more likely than European Americans to see university guest speakers at regional programs; Arts and Sciences as well as Business Administration graduates were more likely than the graduates in the other four colleges to have networking events available.

**If you are interested in having a University Guest Speaker at a regional program, please provide the name of the guest speaker and the topics (academic focus, athletic focus, and etc.)**

- Academic Focus
- How to account for hedging - speaker could be any CPA firm with a focus on hedging
- Buckaroo Balance, how I've turned my BGSU degree into a small business that I love!
- Current events (like Dr. Ribeau's university lecture series)
- DJ Eidson (Pharmaceutical Sales Manager): Topic= Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sales
- Greeks and Community Service
- Student involvement, mentoring, tutoring, continued education and preparation for career development.
- recruiting/management styles
- Why college, and why BGSU?
- Oprah, Hilary Clinton, Ashley Judd (or some other humanitarian)
- Ray Kingsbury, retired Vice President of Lifesphere (Cincinnati)

**Please list any student group or academic affiliations from which you would like to receive periodic updates, newsletters or information.**

- Colleges
- Departments
- Greek Life
- BG 24 News
- German Club
- Black Student Union

- Friends of the Deaf
- Career Development
- The Athletic program and recreational sports
- Honors Program
- Dance Marathon
- Falcon Marching Band
- Fashion Merchandising Association
- University Dance Alliance
- H.E.A.L.T.H. Club
- Golden Key
- Residence life/RAs. If this is an alumni group, I would be interested.
- Public Relations
- Library
- BGSU Men's Chorus
- Latino Student Union
- Academic Success
- Alumni Association
- Minority Affairs Department, or any Cultural and Academic Involvements.
- SCMA
- The Recreation Major's Association
- Women's Ice Hockey Team (if there even is one anymore)
- President's Leadership Academy
- Women's Club
- Undergraduate Student Government
- USG
- WFAL
- Pre-med society
- Tour Guides

**Would you be interested in participating in Young Alumni activities?**

	Long-Term Alumni			Short-Term Alumni		
	1995	1998	2001	1999	2002	2005
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	NA	37	41	NA	45	52
No	NA	63	59	NA	55	48

Minority respondents of 2001 were more interested in participating in Young Alumni activities than were European-Americans respondents.

## OPEN-ENDED QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

There are six open-ended questions listed on the survey.

### 1. How have residential learning communities (e.g., Chapman, Honors) or first year programs (e.g., President's Leadership Academy, Springboard) contributed to your educational and personal development at BGSU?

Most of the survey respondents either didn't answer this question or simply said that they didn't participate in any of the learning communities or first year programs when they were at BGSU. For those who did answer the question, the majority of them expressed positive feelings about the programs they were in (see table below).

	Count
A good place to meet students with similar interests as well as personal values; I met a lot of life long friends there; I feel that I learned from my peers as much as from my classes.	17
It helped me to adapt college life and guided me towards effective college learning.	11
I liked the interesting/unique/small group class. It taught me so many things that regular classes could not.	9
It helped me building up communication and leadership skills	9
It was one of the most influential experiences I had at BGSU. It provided me with opportunities that I would not have otherwise capitalized on; The learning, living, and growth opportunities were invaluable.	8
Faculty's high involvement with my progress both academically and personally allowed me to feel both challenged and supported	5
The program did not contribute a lot/at all to my experience	8

### 2. What activities, events, programs, or individuals contributed the most to your educational and personal development at BGSU?

	Count
Being a member of Greek Life/Clubs/Organizations and attending their activities	72
Faculty, Staff, Academic advisors/counselors	65
Academic Departments/Programs, classes	40
Student Activities (such as Dance Marathon, Marching Band, BG News, guest artists/speakers, student radio) and	26
Working on campus	17
Campus events (music, theater, games, job fairs, etc.)	16
Attending Athletic/Recreation Sports	15
Learning communities and first year programs	14
Co-ops, internships	9
Peers	7
Dorm Life	4
The entire college experience	3
Family members	1
ROTC	1

### 3. What does BGSU do well?

	Count
The safe, open, and friendly community is very unique and important to my overall achievement. A small college feeling with the opportunities of a big university. BGSU does many things well. I enjoyed the overall experience.	63
Faculty and staff members (easy to approach, care for students)	33
Wide range of students activities available for people of different backgrounds and interests	26
Great educational programs.	21
A great number of services, technologies, and facilities are available to students.	19
Classes (variety, small size)	13
BGSU prepared me for the real word, academically and personally	13
BGSU is a school of passion, persistence, and perfection of PRIDE. The core values of BGSU. The spirit of BGSU.	11
Learning communities and first year programs	8
Promoting “family” and diversity	6
Communication	3
Calling alumni for money	2
recruitment	2
Advertisement	2
Dorm Life	1
E-Ziggy newsletter	1
Keeping tuition low and offering flexible schedules	1
drinking	1

### 4. What does BGSU need to improve?

	Count
Improving and changing current curricula and academic programs according to real world needs. Strengthen academic standards for all students. More emphasis on academics. More skill training (such as writing, critical thinking, computer). Making class size smaller.	39
Academic/major/graduate school admissions/career advising and counseling	19
Helping with career searching. Career Center	12
Facilities (including academic and athletic facilities)/landscaping	11
parking	10
Alumni services (Follow-up after graduation. More networking activities between alumni and the current faculty and students in their own major area. Events for International Alumni. Less phone calls for money)	10
Teaching staffs (language, teaching style, updating knowledge, attitude towards students)	9
Making education more affordable	7
Diversity (student and faculty populations, activities)	4
Greek Life	4
Dealing with people more individually	3
More programs and services available for non-traditional and first generation students	3
Financial Aid	3



Athletics. Bring back men's track and field	2
RAs in residence hall should improve their knowledge of students with medical conditions	1
Encouraging interaction between various student groups	1
More effort to recruit out of state students	1
More writing lab helper	1
publicity	1
Student newspaper	1
To hunt down problem organizations and cults that manipulate unsuspecting young people, and especially international students and lonely students	1
traditions	1
Access to government funding for the university as a whole	1
Allow students to move off campus sooner	1
Communications between offices	1
Customer service	1
Decreasing the amount of high-risk drinking that occurs both on and off campus	1
A better public transportation system	1
A new theater for stage performances	1
Funding	1
Encourage students to do internships and co-ops	1
More events to recognize certain group of people	1
Creating a law school at BGSU	1
Bring good speakers to campus	1

**5. What other information would you like to share with us?**

	Count
Thank You, BGSU. Keep up with the good work	34
Updating alumni email address. Don't call for donations. Put me in Falcon Flames lists. Improving Alumni website. More alumni merchandise available	11
Improve the qualities of some academic program or professors	3
BGSU could offer more business networking events	2
Non-traditional students should be addressed by BGSU	1
House rent in the area are too high	1

**6. What other questions should we ask on future surveys?**

Did you complete additional work towards a certificate? More about post graduate education
Do you give money to BGSU as a donor? Ask if Alumni are willing to give back \$\$ to the school. Something regarding donations and why or why don't people contribute once they leave. Ask about how much financial assistance we received from the university (and see how it relates to people's likelihood to give back).
Do you feel the money spent on your education benefits you now?
If you were to start over and choose the same major, would you attend BGSU?
Did you wish to graduate in four years? Were you able to graduate in four years? If you had better advising, would you have been able to graduate in four years?
Ask about our distance from the university.
Possibly include questions about current job situations to go along with the questions concerning the first job out of school.

What other safety measures can we take to make students feel more comfortable on campus?
Ask whether the student was a commuter and how far they traveled.
If students feel that BG does enough to promote diversity and integration.
How might we be of service/help to you, today and in the future? What can we do to help the alumni who do not have a career?
Maybe you should ask how much I used certain services at BG, or even knew they existed (computer labs, Health Center...etc.)
Pertaining to job markets
Are you working in your area of education?
Have you been back to visit BGSU... ?
When you ask for employment, give the option of continuing education with a graduate program somewhere.
More about how many jobs grads have held, and how often they were in the field we studied
Opinion about meal plans.
Questions about student life
Since I received two degrees from BGSU, it was difficult to decide how to answer the questions and decide whether to base my answers on my undergraduate experience or graduate experience. Some direction for people with two BGSU degrees would have been helpful.

## SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The vast majority of BGSU alumni have changed their job at least once after they graduated from BGSU and most of them are holding a full-time job related to their major right now. The annual salary for most of 2005 graduates is \$39,999 or less and \$40,000 or more for 2001 graduates. Alumni who graduated from BGSU five or six years ago were more likely to take additional college courses than were recent graduates, and career preparation is the most important reason for them to do so. Two out of three alumni indicated that they were satisfied with their first/current jobs as well as with the way BGSU prepared them for employment and further education.

More than half of the 1998 and 2001 alumni feel that they gained quite a bit or very much in all 15 items listed on the survey as a result of their BGSU education, especially in being open to new ideas, developing knowledge and skills applicable to a career, relating to others, making informed judgments and understanding their own abilities, interests, and values. Seventy percent or more of them were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall quality of instruction and advising, the ease of access to instructors, and concern for them as an individual. More than 80% of them stated that they would attend BGSU if they could start over again, and that they would encourage others to enroll at BGSU as well.

Other than receiving E-Ziggy electronic newsletters, most of alumni were not actively involved with Alumni Association events, activities, or programs since they graduated from BGSU. More than half of them, however, did express their interests of buying alumni merchandise, visiting the Alumni Association website, reading E-Ziggy, attending Homecoming activities, and participating in alumni gatherings at athletic events in future. The majority of BGSU alumni preferred to hear from the Alumni Association through email once a month.

The open-ended results reinforced and provided greater depth to the basic questionnaire results. BGSU's general institutional climate, the faculty and staff, the academic programs, and student

organizations/activities were cited as most helpful and positive. The residential learning communities or first year programs also had a great impact on those who have attend them, although this was not many. Increasing "relevant and real world" material and experience in the classroom and curriculum, improving academic and career advising, and helping in job searches were among the areas identified as needing emphasis.

The major limitation of this study is the low response rate. Therefore all the results from this survey should be interpreted with caution. Additionally, it is important that alumni follow-up efforts be continued, both at the program and institutional levels.

The Office of Institutional Research welcomes feedback concerning this and other studies and how they can continue to be improved.