2006

Northwestern College

ALUMNI SURVEY

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INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the results of the Northwestern College Alumni Survey administered during the summer of 2006 to individuals who had graduated from Northwestern College in 2001 & 2003. Of the 566 graduates sent the survey, 118 responded for a 21 percent response rate.

Items on the survey were compiled by the Assessment Steering Committee with input by a variety of offices on campus.

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Of those completing the survey, 76.6 percent were female and 65.3 percent were married. While 46.7 percent indicated they intended to complete a Masters degree and 17.2 percent a Doctorate or Professional degree at some point, 10.5 percent reported they had completed a Masters degree at the time of the survey.

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

Alumni were asked to provide information on their occupational status and employment. More than one item could be selected.

Table 1. Occupational status

Attending graduate/professional school	**13.4%**
Working Full-time	**43.3%**
Working Part-time	**10.4%**
Unemployed but seeking paid employment	**0.0%**

Table 2. Type of employment

Working in business	**10.4%**
Working for non-profit organization	**7.5%**
Working for governmental agency	**3.0%**
Serving in military	**1.5%**
Working in ministry	**9.0%**
Working in education	**11.9%**
Participating in community service organization	**3.0%**
Staying at home to be with or start family	**22.4%**
Self-employed	**3.0%**

Table 3. Current salary (excluding spouse)

Less than $20,000	**28.6%**
$20,000-$29,000	**19.0%**
$30,000 - $49,000	**40.0%**
$50,000-$75,000	**9.5%**
$76,000-$99,000	**0.0%**
Over $100,000	**0.0%**
No Response	**2.9%**

SATISFACTION WITH EXPERIENCES AT NORTHWESTERN

Alumni were asked to rate their satisfaction with experiences on a scale from *Very Satisfied* (5) to *Very Dissatisfied* (1). They were also give the option of not rating the item. Not rated items are not included in the Mean score.

Table 4. Satisfaction with Experiences: Mean score and the percentage who selected each option.

	MEAN	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Can't Rate
Personal contact with faculty	**4.51**	**61.1**	**32.7**	**3.5**	**1.8**	**0.9**	**0.0**
Overall quality of instruction	**4.27**	**32.8**	**63.8**	**1.7**	**0.9**	**0.9**	**0.0**
Quality of instruction in your major field	**4.25**	**37.9**	**55.2**	**2.6**	**2.6**	**1.7**	**0.0**
Intellectual stimulation	**4.11**	**25.0**	**63.8**	**8.6**	**2.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
NWC commitment to academic excellence	**4.14**	**29.1**	**58.2**	**10.0**	**2.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Overall experience at NWC	**4.35**	**44.8**	**48.3**	**4.3**	**2.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Current satisfaction with career choice	**4.17**	**45.6**	**34.2**	**10.5**	**7.9**	**0.9**	**0.9**
Quality of NWC education compared to colleagues	**3.97**	**33.0**	**36.6**	**18.8**	**4.5**	**2.7**	**4.5**
Services you received outside the classroom	**3.87**	**22.8**	**40.4**	**25.4**	**3.5**	**0.9**	**7.0**
Career choice at graduation	**3.94**	**36.3**	**33.6**	**15.9**	**10.6**	**1.8**	**1.8**
Preparation for graduate school	**3.65**	**13.9**	**24.3**	**22.6**	**6.1**	**0.9**	**32.2**

SPIRITUAL ENGAGEMENT

Alumni were asked to rate their participation in a variety of activities and disciplines.

Table 5. Spiritual engagement: Mean score and the percentage who selected each option.

	MEAN	Usually	Sometimes	Seldom	Never
Attend a local church	**3.90**	**93.2**	**3.4**	**3.4**	**0.0**
Maintain a regular devotional life/Bible study	**3.51**	**56.9**	**37.1**	**6.0**	**0.0**
Participate and support world missions	**3.33**	**60.2**	**20.3**	**11.9**	**7.6**
Part of a regular group Bible or prayer group activity	**3.19**	**54.2**	**22.0**	**12.7**	**11.0**
Share my faith with others	**3.17**	**34.8**	**48.7**	**15.7**	**0.9**
Serve in places of leadership in my local church	**3.06**	**48.3**	**23.3**	**14.7**	**13.8**
Active in community activities (school, political, etc.)	**2.68**	**25.0**	**33.6**	**25.9**	**15.5**

NORTHWESTERN COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Alumni were asked to indicate level of agreement with statements regarding the extent Northwestern College equipped them in ways consistent with the Mission Statement.

Northwestern College Mission Statement

Northwestern College exists to provide Christ-centered higher education equipping students to grow intellectually and spiritually, to serve effectively in their professions, and to give God-honoring leadership in the home, church, community, and world.

Table 6. Northwestern College Mission Statement: Mean and percentage who selected each option.

Northwestern equipped me to make a God-honoring impact in:	**MEAN**	**Strongly Agree**	**Agree**	**Neutral**	**Disagree**	**Strongly Disagree**
My family	**4.17**	**33.1**	**49.2**	**14.4**	**0.0**	**0.8**
My place of work or profession	**4.25**	**40.2**	**46.2**	**12.0**	**1.7**	**0.0**
My church	**4.26**	**41.2**	**45.6**	**12.3**	**0.0**	**0.9**
My community	**3.94**	**24.6**	**48.2**	**23.7**	**3.5**	**0.0**
The world	**4.03**	**27.0**	**52.2**	**18.3**	**1.7**	**0.9**

CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY

Alumni were asked whether or not they voted in the last state and national elections.

Table 7. Voting: Percentage of alumni who voted.

	Yes
Voted in state election	**75.7**
Voted in national election	**96.6**

Alumni were asked to indicate level of agreement with statements regarding the extent of the College's influence on their attaining each outcome.

Table 8. College Outcomes: Mean score and the percentage who selected each option.

	MEAN	Very Much	Much	Average	Little	None	Can't Rate
Acquiring knowledge of the Bible and theology	**4.42**	**50.9**	**40.2**	**7.1**	**0.9**	**0.0**	**0.9**
Developing a Christian worldview	**4.27**	**46.4**	**34.8**	**16.1**	**1.8**	**0.0**	**0.9**
The ability to interpret and apply biblical principles	**4.19**	**38.2**	**45.5**	**13.6**	**2.7**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Developing qualities of Christian character	**4.23**	**47.3**	**32.1**	**17.0**	**3.6**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Importance of missions and missions mindedness	**3.79**	**25.9**	**35.7**	**31.3**	**6.3**	**0.9**	**0.0**
Interpersonal skills	**3.93**	**27.9**	**45.0**	**19.8**	**6.3**	**0.9**	**0.0**
Commitment to service	**3.74**	**18.8**	**42.0**	**30.4**	**7.1**	**0.0**	**1.8**
Clarity and effectiveness in writing	**3.81**	**25.7**	**36.3**	**31.9**	**6.2**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Commitment to life-long learning	**3.97**	**34.8**	**33.0**	**25.2**	**6.1**	**0.0**	**0.9**
Learning to think critically and reason well	**3.86**	**21.2**	**44.2**	**33.6**	**0.9**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Developing leadership skills	**3.86**	**23.9**	**46.9**	**21.2**	**7.1**	**0.9**	**0.0**
Developing an appreciation for the arts	**3.70**	**25.0**	**31.3**	**33.0**	**9.8**	**0.9**	**0.0**
Confidence and effectiveness in speaking	**3.66**	**22.1**	**31.0**	**38.1**	**8.8**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Ability to use and evaluate information resources	**3.69**	**21.9**	**36.8**	**31.6**	**7.9**	**1.8**	**0.0**
Career training & knowledge & skills applicable to professional development	**3.57**	**17.9**	**40.2**	**25.0**	**12.5**	**3.6**	**0.9**
Developing problem-solving skills	**3.77**	**20.5**	**42.0**	**31.3**	**6.3**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Information related to careers in my field	**3.54**	**22.3**	**34.8**	**21.4**	**17.0**	**4.5**	**0.0**
Developing openness to new ideas	**3.61**	**22.5**	**32.4**	**31.5**	**10.8**	**2.7**	**0.0**
Acquiring knowledge of the historical roots of western civilization	**3.44**	**18.8**	**24.1**	**41.1**	**14.3**	**1.8**	**0.0**
Knowledge and understanding of people from difference races/cultures	**3.28**	**12.5**	**26.8**	**39.3**	**18.8**	**2.7**	**0.0**
Learning to effectively use technology	**3.26**	**10.7**	**20.5**	**49.1**	**15.2**	**0.9**	**3.6**
Acquiring knowledge of social and political issues	**3.03**	**9.0**	**22.5**	**31.5**	**28.8**	**4.5**	**3.6**
Applying scientific knowledge	**3.02**	**4.5**	**23.4**	**41.4**	**21.6**	**4.5**	**4.5**

CONNECTION TO NORTHWESTERN

Alumni were asked to respond to items related to their ties with Northwestern and the publications or other information they receive from the College.

Table 9. Connection to Northwestern: Mean score and percentage who selected each option.

	MEAN	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I maintain ties with NWC	**3.53**	**13.6**	**44.1**	**26.3**	**13.6**	**2.5**
I financially support (or intend to support) the educational ministry of NWC	**2.84**	**5.2**	**18.1**	**41.4**	**26.7**	**8.6**
I was well-prepared by NWC for my first job in the field	**3.96**	**31.5**	**44.1**	**15.3**	**7.2**	**1.8**

Table 10. Information provided by NWC: Mean score and percentage who selected each option.

	MEAN	Very Satisfied	Satisfied	Neutral	Dissatisfied	Very Dissatisfied	Can't Rate
Quality of publications you receive from NWC	**3.91**	**24.1**	**46.4**	**23.2**	**3.6**	**0.9**	**1.8**