Senior Plans and Lasting Impressions
Office of Institutional Effectiveness

Graduation, as the well-worn cliché says, is just around the corner. But after graduation, what? We aren’t referring to the feelings of satisfaction over achievements well-earned or, perhaps, relief that one ‘made it.’ No, the question is intended to ask about plans for the future, the big future that awaits seniors after their bachelor’s degrees are in hand.

We don’t know yet what the graduates of 2010 will say when they respond to questions about their post-SNC plans on the Senior Survey. But we do know what the respondents to the 2009 Senior Survey told us in their responses. They can provide us with a picture of what recent SNC grads said awaited them. Here’s a rundown.

**Working Full-time**
The two academic majors with the most graduates are business and education. Perhaps not surprisingly, therefore, more than two of three grads from 2009 said they planned to work full-time after graduation. That included 90% of business grads and 95% of elementary education seniors.

**Off to Post-graduate Studies**
Just about twenty-five percent of last year’s Senior Survey respondents said they planned to enter graduate or professional school after graduation. Graduates from the natural sciences (biology, chemistry, physics), along with psychology, comprise most of seniors indicating graduate studies were in their short range plans. More than half of the graduates from these majors responded this way.

**Doing Volunteer Work**
About 20% of last year’s grads indicated they planned on doing volunteer work in the year following graduation. More women (26%) than men (14%) indicated volunteering was going to be a part of their coming year, a continuation of a gender difference first noted on The Freshmen Survey completed four years earlier by the same students.

**Traveling**
About 20% of 2009 Senior Survey respondents said travel would be part of their post-graduation year. Unfortunately, the Survey doesn’t provide space for these respondents to tell us where they might be heading.

**The Future**
Two years after their graduation, SNC seniors have an opportunity to tell their alma mater much more about their post-SNC lives. By informing us of their current (and recent) employment, they provide essential information to academic advisors and other SNC personnel who have to answer the question, “What can I do with a major in....?”
And their responses to The Alumni Survey make a continuing contribution to the improvement of the kind of education St. Norbert offers in another way. By reflecting on their SNC experiences from the perspective of two years’ distance, alumni provide the only systematic way to determine SNC’s lasting educational impact in the “real world.”

We value (and use) the important perspectives seniors provide us on the Senior Survey. The Alumni Survey extends the contributions seniors make into the future.

**Satisfaction Graduation**
Almost nine out of ten 2009 seniors said that, if they had it all to do over again, they would re-enroll at St. Norbert. Of course, we don’t really want them to do that. Better they share the benefits of SNC with the wider world. And, of course, we have the same wish for the graduates of 2010.