Class of 2010 Survey

In October 2015, Keene State College surveyed alumni who received bachelor’s degrees in fiscal year 2010. The purposes of the survey were to determine how many recent graduates are employed or pursuing further education, whether their employment or further education is related to their undergraduate studies at KSC. The survey was conducted online with email invitations and follow-up reminders. A $100 Amazon gift card was offered as an incentive for participation.

There were 990 unduplicated bachelor’s degree recipients in fiscal year 2010, and the College had valid contact information with permission for email contacts on 665 of these (67% of the class). Email survey invitations were sent to these 665 alumni, and usable responses were received from 169 respondents, for an overall response rate of 25%.

**KEY FINDINGS**

- Alumni continue to view their KSC education positively; 85% of respondents indicated that they would recommend KSC to friends and siblings, and 83% reported that they were satisfied with their KSC Education.

- Five years after graduation, 95% of the respondents are either employed or engaged in graduate education.

- Ninety-one percent of the respondents reported that they are employed; 8% indicated that they are not employed by choice (for example, to care for family members or enroll in graduate study), and the remaining 2% reported that they are unemployed and seeking work (total exceeds 100% because of rounding error). This unemployment level compares favorably with current unemployment rates for New Hampshire (3.4%), Vermont (3.7%), Maine (4.4%), Massachusetts (4.6%), and New York (5.1%), and is one-half the 4% rate reported last year by the Class of 2009.

- Among those who are employed, 73% reported that their current position is closely related or somewhat related to their studies at KSC; of these, 80% reported that KSC had prepared them well or very well for their current work.

- Thirty-eight percent of the respondents reported that they had enrolled in one or more graduate education programs at some point after graduating from Keene State College; of these 91% were master’s degree programs, and 9% were in doctoral programs.

- Among those who have engaged in graduate education, 86% reported that their programs were closely related or somewhat related to their studies at KSC, of these, 100% judged that KSC had prepared them well or very well for this next step in their education.
**Detailed Findings**

**Overall Satisfaction with KSC Education**

Three measures of alumni global satisfaction with their KSC education were included in the current Alumni Survey. Each asked alumni to rate their agreement with statements expressing a type of overall satisfaction.

- *I would recommend KSC to friends or siblings as a good place to go to college:* 87% “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.”
- *If I had it to do over again, I would still choose the same major(s):* 63% “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.”
- *Overall, I am satisfied with my KSC education:* 83% selected “Agree” or “Strongly Agree.”

**Employment**

The great majority of the respondents (91%) indicated that they were employed in some capacity at the time of the survey. The employment category breakdown is as follows (total exceeds 100% because of rounding error):

- 80% full-time regular employment
- 10% part-time regular employment
- 1% unpaid internship
- 8% not employed by choice (e.g., in school, travelling, or caring for family)
- 2% not employed and looking for work

Among those who are employed, 73% reported that their current position is closely related or somewhat related to their studies at KSC; of these, 80% reported that KSC had prepared them well or very well for their current work.

When compared with prior-year findings obtained from the Class of 2009, the unemployed-seeking-work percentage decreased from 4% to 2%, full-time employment dropped from 85% to 80%, part-time employment increased from 8% to 9%, and not-employed-by-choice increased from 2% to 8%. Among the 13 participants unemployed by choice, 8 are enrolled in a graduate program (6-master’s, 2-Ph.D.), one is an overseas volunteer, one is a stay-at-home mother, and no additional information is available for the remaining three.

**Graduate Education**

A sizable minority of the respondents (38%) reported that they had enrolled in graduate education at some point since graduating from Keene State College, with most of these seeking master’s degrees (91%). The most commonly reported general field of study for advanced degrees was education (35%). Most enrolled in institutions in New Hampshire or surrounding states in New England or the Northeast. However, some enrolled farther away, including one who studied in Honolulu. Among those who have engaged in graduate education, 86% reported that their programs were closely related or somewhat related to their studies at KSC; of these, 100% judged that KSC had prepared them well or very well for this next step in their education.

When compared with findings obtained in 2014 from the Class of 2009, the percentage who had enrolled in graduate education declined from 47% to 38%, enrollment in graduate programs related to undergraduate degrees increased from 79% to 86%, and the percentage of that group reporting that KSC prepared them well or very well for their current degree increased from 87% to 100%. Thus, current alumni are less likely to pursue a graduate degree in a new field, which may be due to their lower unemployment rate. However, those continuing their education in the field they studied at KSC uniformly agree that the College prepared them well for their graduate program.
Community Service

Current involvement in community service was reported by 35% of participants. The following statements provide examples of different categories of service.

Volunteer Activities (26 comments)

I run after-school programs in an ethnically diverse, underfunded, and low income school on the South Side of Chicago in an attempt to keep kids in school, off drugs, and out of gangs.

I am currently overseas in Kisumu, Kenya, volunteering as a mental health counselor for orphans and vulnerable children and HIV/AIDS patients. Starting in 2016, I will be partnering with the Christian Relief Fund and serving as a counselor full time in this area.

Volunteer with the Office of Emergency Management (OEM), main unit with Re-Hab Unit. When emergencies occur (house/complex fires, wild fires, major storms and storm damage, etc.) my unit may be called out to provide support to the Emergency Personnel on scene. Re-Hab unit works a canteen truck that offers hot/cold beverages, especially water to keep fire fighters and other emergency personnel safely hydrated, hot/cold snacks/food, and other items as needed.

Charitable Fund-Raising (6 comments)

Act as technical management for an annual fundraiser and general volunteer.

Currently I participate in walks and fundraise for a few different causes (Light the Night Walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Foundation, Walk for Bladder Cancer for the Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network, Polar Plunge for the Special Olympics)

I currently participate in the Pan Massachusetts Challenge every August where I raise over $5,000 each year to benefit the Dana Farber Cancer Institute. On the first weekend in August I ride my bike with 6,000 other Cyclists across the state of Massachusetts.

Board Service for Charitable Organizations (3 comments)

Board member of the Central New York Dietetics Association - various volunteer opportunities available through this position.

I serve on the Service Learning Advisory Board and Alumni Advisory Board at Middlesex Community College. I am on the Friends of the Merrimack Repertory Theatre board, Lowell Women's Week, and Kids Week Advisory board

Board member on New Haven Running Club

What Else Are Alumni Doing?

The survey asked respondents, “Besides employment and further education, what else are you doing that is meaningful to you five years after graduation?” Common themes are listed below, along with sample comments for each. It is noteworthy that community service activities were a frequent response theme for this item. This indicates that KSC alumni find meaning in the service activities they reported above.
Sports/Coaching/Fitness (17 comments)

I am the Head Varsity Girls Field Hockey Coach at Shoreham Wading-river high school
I enjoy playing ice hockey and running a local recreational ice hockey league.
I help run a roller derby league

Community Service (16 comments)

After graduating from KSC, I joined the United States Army and served for 4 years at Fort Stewart, GA. I had the opportunity to deploy to Afghanistan for nine months
I joined the Peace Corps right after graduation, for 3 years and I'm still involved with Peace Corps related things, such as service and outreach.
Upon graduating I did a one year AmeriCorps service
Mentoring high school seniors on their path to college (and usually recommending KSC, go owls!)

Marriage/Family (15 comments)

Got married and am expecting my first baby in December!
I recently got engaged to someone amazing that I met while running Track and Field at KSC
I got married this week and am excited to help show LGTB youth that you can be who you are and still have a boringly normal, fantastic married life.
I've gotten married to my best friend and significant other whom I met at Keene State and am working on starting a family.

Hobbies/Pastimes/Art (11 comments)

I am a vocalist for a folk band.
I do bookbinding and mixed media art as a hobby and have begun to try and sell my work on etsy.com
Operating a blog, writing articles for prestigious online companies in the fitness industry, and helping many figure out why they have chronic pain and what to do about it
My boyfriend and I recently started beekeeping, in addition to having a garden, and having fun canning.

Home Ownership (5 comments)

My fiancé (also Keene state alumni) and I own two properties that keep us busy
I bought a house
What Part of the KSC Experience Remains Meaningful?

The survey asked, “What experience did you have at KSC - inside or outside the classroom - that has proved most valuable for whatever you are doing now in your life?” Common themes in the responses are listed below, with sample comments.

*Courses/Programs (22 comments)*

One of the best experiences I had at KSC came while working on my senior project. The project involved working with the Keene Conservation Commission, various faculty members from Keene State and Antioch, and members of other organizations such as City Hall and the City Council which was really very rewarding. The project involved conducting a natural resource inventory of a piece of city owned land which was very rewarding by itself, but it also required us to communicate with a wide variety of people in various roles within their organizations to help complete the final product. Working together with such a diverse group really helped me step outside of my comfort zone, helped with my project management skills, and also helped me to be a more effective communicator.

Senior seminar in the ENST program was a game-changer for me. My studies went from purely theoretical in the classroom to producing a body of research that is still in use today. The desire to produce a document that was informative and useful for the Keene community provided more motivation than getting good grades ever could have.

The elementary education program and community service trips I went on made a major impact on my life. So much so, that when I enrolled in the MEd of Special Education program at UNH, I was extremely disappointed when compared to KSC.

The hands on experiences with the TAD productions was invaluable. Not only did I get experience in technical theater at a professional level, it teaches how to work as a team, how to manage time, how to organize and multitask, how to lead other people, and so many other life lessons. Now as a professional and as a technical theater teacher, I try to emulate my professors to give my students and my shows the same lessons and experiences.

*Campus Social Life (21 comments)*

I have a wonderful support system in my life, nearly all of whom I met while at Keene State. They are my very best friends and I am so appreciative of my time at Keene State solely for that. I am so grateful for all of the amazing people I met inside and outside of class at Keene State. They all really mean a lot to me still.

I still remain very close to this day to my freshman year roommate and other floor mates from Carle Hall, most of which are like brothers to me. Not only from freshman year but many of the relationships I developed over the course of my 4 year career at Keene State remain strong to this day.

The camaraderie as a non-traditional student was vital to my success at KSC

The connections I made with students and staff were invaluable and absolutely contribute to my experience at KSC and who I am today.
Relationships with Faculty and Staff (15 comments)

I still have a great relationship with most of my professors which I still communicate with, and I'm still able to ask advice and even help in regards to finding potential graduates for my current employer.

My relationships with professors at school, has been extremely important to me and has made me realize the importance of attending a small school. Knowing that people believe in you can you give you so much motivation to pursue your dreams and achieve them!

My advisor not only shared her passion with me but believed in my skills. She still contacts me today and without her love and guidance I would not be as driven to make an impact in my field of studies. I can't thank her enough for all she has done for me I am so grateful for the education I received at Keene State.

The KSC Motto, "Enter to Learn, Go forth to Serve," has resonated with me still today. The staff and people that I met during my time at KSC had a passion for learning and sharing it with others. I am fortunate enough that I am able to pass on the wisdom that I have learned over the years to my students in the classroom, just like KSC staff did for me.

Student Leadership Opportunities/Student Organizations (14 comments)

I did two sports in college. I now manage a team of twenty people at the best retirement/investment firm in the world. The same leadership qualities I developed while playing collegiate sports translate to my current position.

I got really involved. As a matter of fact there was a time I was working two work study jobs, one in the child care center and one in the student center. I was the secretary for Habitat for Humanity KSC chapter, and a part of RHO. And I also was a part of English Honors. All of these things had their own attributes to what made me so successful in my after years of KSC

I started and re-founded Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and served as president for two years. This helped me understand how to run a business and manage large groups of people in delegating and being productive as well as knowing the process and patience in starting my own company

I was a member of a Greek organization during my time at KSC. Being involved in Greek life and participating in the many activities we did has motivated me to be a better person, think outside of the box and live happier both in my employment opportunities and personal life. I obtained the social, financial, and organization skills needed to be successful in my future. I also developed relationships and connections with people through this organization that I will always rely on throughout my life, for both professional needs and personal. My sorority and my sisters shaped me into the person I am today. I am very proud to be able to say that!

Personal Growth/Maturation (13 comments)

I started Keene not really knowing myself or what I wanted to do. Keene allowed me to gain confidence, independence and really figure out who I was. I was generally shy and anxious at times, but Keene really allowed me to get out of my shell. I was always smart so I knew I could really do anything I wanted when it came to school, but I don't think I could have made such personal improvements at just any school.
I think just learning to function as a part of society as a whole. Knowing I need to show up daily, prepared for what is going to happen. Also, being able to take accountability for what I do in my job and life. Keene State also showed me how to be an individual while still participating in the community aspect. This has carried over to my current job- where I work individually most of the day, but still need to reach out to my team on a regular basis.

That being true to who you are and your values in life will eventually pay off. That you want to work at a place that you enjoy going to every day, not one that you will dread. Love who you are and what you do.

The most valuable lessons learned at KSC were those that required me to make decisions on my own. The freedom that you are given as a college student, allowed me to learn accountability, responsibility and self-discipline.

**Professional/Academic Skill Acquisition (12 comments)**

I've used some of my computer programming skills both in- and outside of my employment.

My time at KSC helped me develop critical thinking skills, flexibility, and communication skills that I have been able to apply to any job I have had.

I learned how to work with different types of students and their needs in the classroom and started gaining more confidence in myself as a person and as a classroom teacher.

Learned writing and reporting skills that I use in almost every aspect of my life from a day to day basis working with students, doing papers for school, etc.

**Student Teaching/Internships/Practica/Professional Opportunities (12 comments)**

Jumping into all of my practicum placements regardless of how scared I was. Those experiences taught me how important it is to commit to what I'm doing no matter what and things will work out.

My internship at Markem-Imaje helped prepare me for the future direction of obtaining an industrial chemical career.

My internship with Community Improvement Associates in Keene. They run, in conjunction with the state, a mandatory drug and alcohol rehab program for offenders. I did a double internship there my entire senior year, learned so much, and stayed working for them another 6 months after college.

Since I was an elementary education student being in the classroom was the most valuable lesson for me. Being thrown into what I would be doing and learning to stand on my own was the best way for me to learn. I had the opportunity to observe, learn, make mistakes and grow from them with my infield classroom experience.

**Work-study/Campus Employment (7 comments)**

Going into my final semester of college I began working in the financial aid office at KSC. After completing my degree, I continued to work for the office full time until I was able to find a full time, benefited position in a financial aid office. I have been working in the field of financial aid ever since.
I volunteered as a tour guide my sophomore year at KSC. That introduced me to the world of Admissions and from a tour guide I was given the opportunity to work in the KSC Admission Office. I did that as a student and for one year out of college. I now work in Admissions at a private high school in MA, I get to travel all over the world and work with kids, I absolutely love it. If it wasn't for those experiences at KSC, I never would be where I am today and I'm forever grateful.

My time spent leading as both a Resident Assistant and Peer Advisor has been the most valuable. After graduating from KSC, I continued on as a graduate assistant working as an Assistant Resident Coordinator in New York. Then, after completing my graduate degree, became a Residence Director in MA, and most recently an Area Coordinator. The last position took me all the way out to Colorado for a year, a grand opportunity. Those positions have also enabled me to be adaptable to nearly every situation life as thrown at me, as well as providing me with the support systems in my life to call upon as needed.

Working as a student staff member (RA) at Keene State College prepared me for life outside the college bubble; that there were bigger and grander things out in the world other than what my friends and I were doing. I greatly appreciate the supportive staff that helped shape the community values that I have today. Learning how to help take care of others in the RA role ultimately helped me take care of myself, and now that I am able to give back my time, I am empowered to help the students I work with today to advocate for themselves and others to create a brighter future for their community.

Community Service/ Volunteer Opportunities (3 comments)

At KSC, I learned the importance of community service and volunteering through being a part of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Habitat for Humanity Alternative Spring Breaks, First Book and my sorority Delta Phi Epsilon. Through these wonderful experiences, I gained leadership skills which have been extremely valuable in my current volunteer and job positions.

Study Abroad (2 comments)

I spent a semester abroad at the University of Derby in Derby England, and served as a Student Ambassador for the rest of my time at Keene State. My experiences overseas opened my eyes to a new world and sparked my desire to travel and explore the world. That semester was the first step I needed to go overseas as a TEFL instructor.

STUDY ABROAD! The India summer program was the single most important thing I could have done with my college experience. I am eternally grateful for the way in which it opened my eyes and soul to the world and has led me to a career in food as it is something we all share a common need for every day.