



POST-COLLEGIATE LIFE SURVEY



Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Geneva, New York 14456

*Classes of 1979, 1982, 1985, 1989, 1993, 1997,
2001, 2005, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018*

Dear Alumnus/Alumna:

Greetings once again to the Classes of '79, '82, '85, '89, '93, '97, '01, '05, '06, '09, and '10 and a new greeting to the Classes of '13, '14, '17, and '18! Your help is being requested in this ongoing (now monumental) sociological study of post-collegiate life among our graduates. As a member of one of these classes you are part of a very special research project that has now become a long term tradition at HWS with response rates that are unparalleled in any research on college graduates. Indeed, this study is unique in all of higher education because it has kept going for so long and because so many of you continue to respond. I am a bit behind in getting this latest round underway and some of you have actually written wondering if I was still conducting the survey!

If you are a member of the Class of '79, '82 or '85 you first received a Post-Collegiate Life Survey in 1987. The response to that survey was unprecedented (860 of you responded or 76%)! About every four years thereafter I have continued to follow up by contacting each class previously surveyed and adding new cohorts to the study as well with response rates as high as 70%. Many of you have also sent in extra thoughts and comments prompted by subject matter in the survey. Various reports on these surveys and related articles are available at my HWS Post-Collegiate Life Survey web site (<http://people.hws.edu/perkins/PCLrep.htm>) and I am now planning a book about the post-college life experiences of generations of our graduates with the completion of this current survey.

The last survey took place in 2011-12 so it is high time to check back in with all of your cohorts to see what changes have taken place, what issues and experiences remain as persistent themes, and what new patterns are emerging in your lives. This year I am adding graduates from the Classes of 2013, 2014, 2017 and 2018. Again, the intention of this survey is to gain a more accurate picture of current life styles among graduates and assess the diversity of life transitions that have been experienced since college. All graduates of the fifteen classes are being contacted by email (if available) or by regular mail and asked to complete the HWS Post-Collegiate Life Survey regardless of whether or not you participated previously. Participation is anonymous as in past surveys and voluntary, of course, but every member of these classes is urged to respond so that all views and experiences among graduates from a variety of backgrounds will be adequately represented. The survey takes only about 15 minutes to complete and there are no other requests or obligations.

The survey has traditionally concentrated on questions about 1) friendship patterns, 2) family transitions, 3) postgraduate education and vocational experiences, 4) health concerns such as alcohol use, smoking, eating patterns, and exercise, 5) personal value priorities, and 6) forgiveness in personal relationships. In the last few survey rounds I have also included a series of questions asking you to reflect on the value of your HWS education from your vantage point today. These questions about HWS are particularly useful for evaluating what we provide to students in the long run.

As most of you know from past participation, this ongoing study is only about hearing your thoughts and experiences—no requests for money will follow, no other obligations are involved, and no strings attached. If you would like to see the aggregate results, I will be happy to provide them, and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I am very grateful for your help and continued interest in this study!

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