PRESENTERS

Erica Zippert
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SNAPSHOT

CAWG

of

Student Experiences

Campus Assessment Working Group
RETENTION AND COMPLETION MEMBERS  
(PAST AND PRESENT CONTRIBUTORS)

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PRESENTATION AGENDA

2011 Alumni Survey

- Background
- Respondents
- Results

Q&A with discussants
ALUMNI SURVEY BACKGROUND

- Conducted every 3 years
- Online
- Sent out to all UMD bachelors’ recipients a year after graduation
- Items mandated by Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC)
- CAWG items about student experiences
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Responding alumni currently employed
69% of total respondents (n=576)

Responding alumni currently in graduate school
21% of total respondents (n=175)
4 THEMES

• Mentoring
• Broad experiences
• Real-world skills
• Preparation for the future
MENTORING

49% found their experience valuable in establishing a mentoring relationship with a UMD faculty/staff member

64% wished they had more opportunity to establish a mentoring relationship with a UMD faculty/staff member
“ [...] I could have taken initiative to meet with professors, go to more office hours, and participate more in class.”

“I could have reached out to senior faculty members [...] That being said, I wasn't sure if that was their role.”
BROAD EXPERIENCES

% indicating that UMD experience was VALUABLE
% indicating they wished for MORE OPPORTUNITY

WORKING WITH OTHERS who are different from you
- 83%
- 28%

Understanding DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES
- 82%
- 31%

Increasing academic knowledge OUTSIDE YOUR MAJOR
- 70%
- 54%

Gaining an understanding of GLOBAL ISSUES
- 63%
- 46%

0% 50% 100%
BROAD EXPERIENCES

“I would have taken more classes outside of my major and looked for job experience/research experience earlier than I did.”

“I wish I had taken advantage of a study abroad semester. The courses that UMD offers are fantastic, but nothing compares to experiencing another culture for an extended period of time.”
REAL-WORLD SKILLS

- APPLYING what you have learned to other situations: 79% (valuable), 40% (more opportunity)
- REVISING YOUR THINKING based on new information: 78% (valuable), 34% (more opportunity)
- Developing your LEADERSHIP SKILLS: 73% (valuable), 46% (more opportunity)
- WRITING effectively: 71% (valuable), 41% (more opportunity)
- Presenting a PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT: 68% (valuable), 40% (more opportunity)
- SPEAKING effectively: 67% (valuable), 48% (more opportunity)
REAL-WORLD SKILLS

“I wish I had taken more opportunities to practice public speaking.”

“I wish that I had picked one of the student organizations to become more involved in and perhaps worked towards a leadership position in that organization so that I could have had more practice with that sort of thing going into the work place.”

“I could have gone to the Writing Center to develop my writing skills.”
PREPARATION FOR THE FUTURE

- % indicating that UMD experience was VALUABLE
- % indicating they wished for MORE OPPORTUNITY

Providing PREPARATION for your current educational or professional position

- 76% valued UMD experience
- 59% wished for more opportunity

Developing a sense of PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

- 73% valued UMD experience
- 34% wished for more opportunity
"I could have been more proactive in seeking these opportunities out and taking my future into my own hands and not trusting that the education I received, albeit a good one, was enough [...]"

"I would have tried looking for an internship with a sense of urgency early in college [...]"

"I could have probably searched for more opportunities in research labs but I felt like I didn't know where to look."
Q&A WITH DISCUSSANTS
Marsha Guenzler-Stevens
Director of the Adele H. Stamp Student Union

Doug Roberts
Associate Professor and Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies

Erin Rooney-Eckel
Associate Director for Experiential Education and The President's Promise
QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

• How could the university provide more valuable mentorship opportunities to undergraduate students, and more specifically to those who do not intend to pursue graduate study?

• How does the university provide opportunities for students to learn in fields outside of their majors?

• How does UMD prepare students differently for future employment versus graduate study?

• Should the university respond to calls for job preparation, and if so how?
The 2011 Alumni Survey Snapshots:

Alumni Reflections on the UMD Undergraduate Experience

Advice to Undergraduates from the Graduating Class of 2010

Available: www.umd.edu/cawg