

Yale 1963 – At 50

Class Survey

Fall, 2012

For our 50th reunion classmates had the opportunity to complete a survey covering many aspects of our lives. The survey was quite popular; 465 completed it, up from 307 who completed the survey for our 45th reunion. Although the number is large, those responding may not be representative of the entire class. Nonetheless, the results provide an interesting look into the interests, accomplishments and aspirations of many in our class.

Vital Statistics

Retirement. With an average age of 72, tradition would suggest that most of us would be retired. But only 41% describe themselves as fully retired. One-third of the class (34%) is still working regularly at a full- or almost full-time job and twenty-five percent describe themselves as "in transition to retirement."

Marriage. Eighty-nine percent are currently married or in a similarly committed relationship. Of the married classmates, about two-thirds (62%) are married to their first wives while one-third (35%) are in their second or third marriages. Three percent never married. Of those with families, 40% have two children and 38% three or more children. Seventy-three percent have grandchildren.

Residence. Our classmates live in every part of the United States, but the majority live on the Atlantic coast, in New England (20%), the Middle Atlantic states (16%), or the South Atlantic (21%).¹ Another 16% live on the West coast. This leaves one quarter of the class spread around the remaining 28 states. A very few (15) live outside the U.S., in Canada, Australia, Mexico, or European Union countries. For 40% of us, our current location is within 250 miles of where we grew up.

Education, Work and Service

Further education. We are a well-educated group. Almost everyone earned a degree beyond their bachelor's from Yale: 53% earned a Masters degree, 28% a Ph.D., 27% a law degree and 13% an M.D. We are well published: 40% have written a magazine article, 82% an article for a journal in their field and 42% have published at least one book.

Military. Forty-one percent of us served in the military in one capacity or another. A third (32%) served on active duty and seven percent saw combat.

Public service. Almost one fifth of the class (18%) has served as an elected or appointed official in local, state, or national government. The positions vary from officers in local

¹ New England (CT, RI, MA, VT, NH, ME); Middle Atlantic (NY, NJ, PA); South Atlantic (DE, MD, DC, WV, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL).

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civic organizations such as a school board or planning commission to those who have served as police commissioner, mayor, attorney general, governor, U.S. Senator, and Ambassador.

Category	Examples
Political/Public/Civic-Elected or Appointed	Mayor; Governor; Councilman; Secretary of State; Legislator; Justice of the Peace; Ambassador; Senator
Legal/Judicial Offices	Attorney General; District Court Judge; District Attorney; Justice of the Peace; Legal Director
Public Safety	Police Commissioner; Safety Commissioner
Education	School board member; Library Trustee; University trustee
Health and Welfare	Housing authority; welfare commissioner; Affirmative Action committee; Director of Retirement services; Family Services board member
Environment (water, wetlands, utilities, waste management, etc.)	Environmental Conservation Board; Greenway Commission; Water Authority; Parks and Rec Commission; Hazardous Waste Management Chairman
Zoning, Planning and Land Management	Assessor; Charter Commission; City Planning Board; Zoning Board; Landmarks Commission; Historic Preservation Board
Financial	Budget Committee; Director of NY Federal Reserve Bank; Audit Committee

Occupation. Four job categories capture 45% of the jobs held by classmates. About one-fifth (19%) of the class is in **law**, engaged in a wide variety of legal work including private practice, corporate counsel, and trial law. Sixteen percent are in **finance** in positions that include banking, investments, real estate, and accounting. Fifteen percent are in **medicine**, with the majority in clinical practice. Fourteen percent are in **higher education**, with almost all of these professors in fields that cover almost every discipline: biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering, history, mathematics, medicine, and psychology to name a few.

The rest of our class is engaged in fields as diverse as advertising, architecture, engineering, government, journalism, library science, manufacturing, television, and theater. Not surprising, many report they are at the top of their profession in leadership positions, or were before they retired.

In the 1960s many experts predicted that our generation would have several different jobs in the course of our career. Sixty percent of our class found that to be the case, holding two or more quite different jobs over the course of their career.

Fitness Activity and Health

In general we see ourselves as healthy. Ninety-five percent said their health was *Good to Excellent*. Only five percent rated their health as *Poor* or *Moderately poor*. But 15% indicated that they had a serious medical condition that limits their activity.

Many exercise regularly, though not necessarily vigorously: 56% say they take walks or other light exercise three or more times a week. Thirty-seven percent engage in vigorous

exercise three or more times per week and 36% lift weights or use strength equipment at least once a week.

Reading and Television Viewing

Books. When asked: *is there a book you have read in the last year that you would strongly recommend to classmates?* 89% offered one or more titles. But there was very little overlap. Here are the eight titles with three or more mentions:

Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption, by Laura Hillenbrand (9)

Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson (6)

Citizens of London: The Americans Who Stood with Britain in Its Darkest, Finest Hour, by Lynne Olson (3)

George F Kennan: An American Life, by John Lewis Gaddis (3)

Moby Dick, by Herman Melville (3)

Passage of Power, by Robert Caro (3)

Washington: A Life, by Ron Chernow (3)

Wolf Hall, by Hilary Mantel (3)

At our 45th the titles that garnered the most mentions were

Road, by Cormac McCarthy (6)

Teams of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln, by Doris Kearns Goodwin (6)

Coldest Winter: America and the Korean War, by David Halberstam (6)

Legacy of Ashes: The History of the CIA, by Tim Weiner (5)

1776, by David McCullough (4)

Television. The most popular television shows for our classmates are in the drama category with PBS series such as *Masterpiece Theater* or *Downton Abbey* or network series such as *Mad Men* and *Good Wife* leading the way. (At our 45th the most watched shows in this category were *24*, *House*, *Law and Order*, and *The Wire*). News shows are almost as popular as dramatic series, with the PBS News Hour leading the way, followed by *60 Minutes* and *Fox News*. But a news satire show—John Stewart's *The Daily Show*—was mentioned as often as the last two serious news shows. There were fewer mentions of comedy and sports shows than five years ago.

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The Most Popular Television Shows

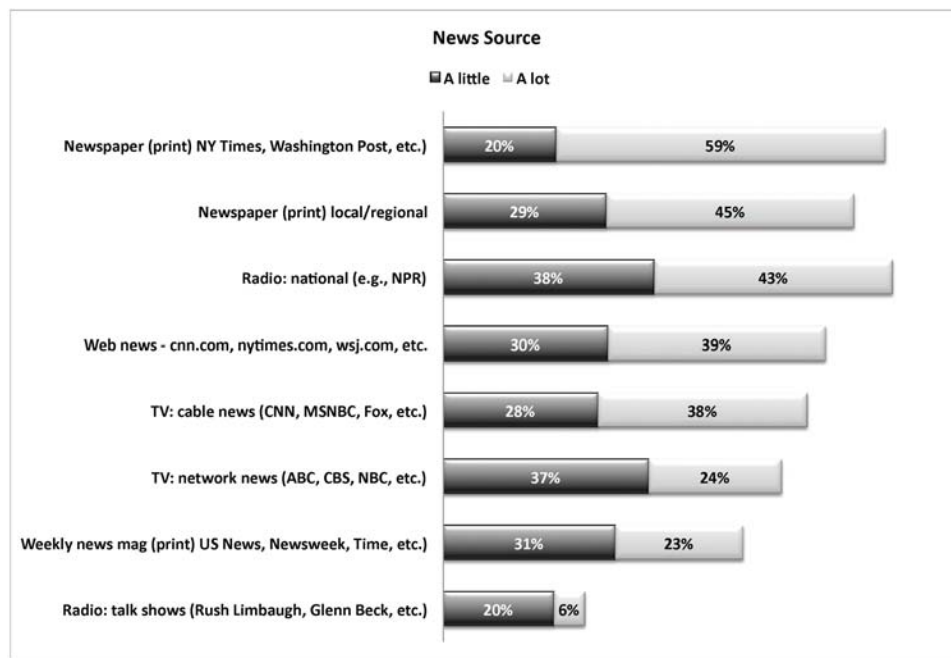
Category		No.	Pct.
Drama	<i>PBS</i> : Masterpiece (Theater or Mystery) (49), <i>Downton Abbey</i> (15). <i>Network</i> : <i>Mad Men</i> (20), <i>The Good Wife</i> (12), <i>Homeland</i> (9), <i>Law & Order</i> (8)	236	38%
News Shows	<i>PBS News Hour</i> (43), <i>60 Minutes</i> (20), <i>Fox News</i> (20)	205	33
News Satire	<i>The Daily Show with Jon Stewart</i> (20); <i>The Colbert Report</i> (8)	29	5
Comedy/Sitcom	<i>Big Bang Theory</i> (5)	23	4
Sports	Football (11)	56	9
Reality Shows	<i>American Idol</i> (3); <i>Dancing with the Stars</i> (3)	13	2
Documentary	<i>NOVA</i> (6)	12	2
Miscellaneous	<i>Jeopardy</i> (9), <i>Turner Classic Movies</i> (7), <i>Antiques Road Show</i> (6)	52	8
TOTAL		626	100%

* No.: the total number of shows mentioned that fall in this category. Pct.: the percent of total shows mentioned. Six people said they don't watch TV at all.

Media and New Technologies

In a time of rapidly evolving news technologies, where do we turn to get our news? Combining responses of *a little* and *a lot*, the lead source is national radio such as NPR (81%). Print news is second, with almost a tie between national newspapers (such as the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*) and local newspapers (79% and 74%). Online news (*cnn.com*, *nytimes.com*, etc.) is next at 69%. Television is next with cable and network news about even (65% and 61%). Weekly news magazines come in at 54%. It is quite striking how many turn to online sources for their news.

Has our class embraced the new technologies? Fifty-three percent own a tablet PC (iPad, Kindle, Nook, etc.) and they use it to read books occasionally (24%) or regularly (19%). Ninety-six percent use email on a regular basis and 32% claim to have a Facebook page.



Political Perspectives

One part of undergraduate life for many was engaging in political discussion, whether it was formal argument in political science seminars or informal debate in the dining hall. For some, their views were affirmed, for others they shifted. Do we feel our views have changed since college? About half of our class said no. Views on issues such as the U.S. role in world affairs, the government's role in society, and party preference are pretty much the same as they were when they left Yale. But the other half feels that their views have changed. Interestingly, about half of the changers feel they have become more conservative and the other half more liberal.

35. Have your political views changed since college? Would you describe yourself as more or less liberal on issues in these three areas?

a. The U.S. role in world affairs

More Conservative	20 %
About the Same	58 %
More Liberal	21 %

b. Government role in society

More Conservative	30 %
About the Same	41 %
More Liberal	28 %

c. Political party preference

More Conservative	19 %
About the Same	48 %
More Liberal	32 %

Political Party Preference

Many more of the class find themselves identifying with the Democratic party than the Republican party. Eighteen percent describe themselves as Independent and five percent are indifferent to party preference. At the 45th reunion we were almost evenly split on party affiliation.

36. On most issues, with which party do you identify?

Democratic	48 %
Republican	29 %
Independent	18 %
I'm indifferent to party preference	5 %

When it comes to preference for a president (expressed at a point between one and eight months prior to the election), 59% favored Obama and 36% Romney or another Republican who was in the race at the time they completed the survey. (Some 95 classmates must have been very confused by the presidential preference question. Due to

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a programming error they were shunted into the survey that was used for the 45th reunion. They surely wondered why we were asking whether they favored candidates such as Giuliani, Huckabee, and McCain.)

38. When we gather for our reunion it will be four months into the next presidential term. Whom do you favor most at this point? Pick just one. (The slate of Republicans may be different at the time you are taking this survey.)

Obama	59 %
Romney	36 %
Santorum	0 %
Gingrich	0 %
Paul	1 %
None of the above	3 %
Indifferent, I don't care who is elected	1 %

Three Policy Questions

Classmates were asked their views on three contemporary issues: the war in Afghanistan, marriage of same-sex couples, and the role of government in a faltering economy. On the war the majority supported gradual withdrawal as long as regional peace and security could be maintained. Another third supported immediate withdrawal. It's unclear whether those supporting immediate withdrawal would maintain that stance if there was a major threat to regional peace or security in the area.

32. The war in Afghanistan: at this point [spring-summer 2012] do you feel the US should:

Remain in Afghanistan so long as a US presence is requested by the Afghans and is needed to maintain regional peace and security	14 %
Stay until we win	1 %
Withdraw gradually so long as regional peace and security can be maintained	54 %
Withdraw immediately irrespective of threats to regional peace and security	30 %

The class was strongly in favor of same sex marriage with same-sex couples having the same rights as male-female couples. The support this year was much stronger than the support at our 45th (75% vs. 62%).

33. What do you think about marriage of same sex couples?

Same sex couples should be given the same rights as male-female couples	75 %
Same sex couples should be given a different status that carries different rights and privileges	21 %
Unions of same sex couples should be forbidden	4 %

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On the faltering economy the class was strongly of the opinion that public policy can play a role in creating new jobs in the private sector.

34. Much has been made in this presidential campaign about the faltering economy and the lack of jobs. How much of an impact do you think U.S. government policy could have on creating jobs in the private sector.

There is a strong role that public policy could play in creating new jobs in the private sector	69 %
There is very little that government policy can do to stimulate the creation of jobs in the private sector	27 %
I don't have an opinion on this topic	4 %

Religion and Spirituality

How have our views on religion changed over the last 50 years? As with political views, about half the class (46%) say their religious views are about the same as in college. One quarter say they are less religious or spiritual, while another quarter say they are more religious these days.

How about attending an organized church? Today, one quarter attend with some regularity (several times a month or more frequently), but two-thirds never attend or attend only a few times a year. For 58% of our classmates church attendance is less frequent than when they were undergraduates but for 42% it is more frequent.

39. How often do you attend an organized church today?

Never or only a few times a year	67 %
Once a month	7 %
Several times a month	9 %
Weekly	15 %
Several times a week	2 %

40. How does this compare with your college days? I attend:

Less frequently	58 %
More frequently	42 %

41. How have your views on religion changed since college? Would you describe yourself as more or less religious or spiritual?

Less religious/spiritual	28 %
About the same	46 %
More religious/spiritual	26 %

Life Accomplishments

After 50 years of working on our career and building a family it is appropriate to ask how we feel about what we have accomplished to date. Overall, half of our class is *Very*

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satisfied (50%). Forty-one percent are *Moderately satisfied* (41%) with what they have achieved thus far. The *Moderately satisfied* may be those who, as will be seen later, have a lot they still want to accomplish in years that remain.

45. Thinking about your career overall, how would you rate your satisfaction with what you have achieved?

Very dissatisfied	4 %
Moderately dissatisfied	6 %
Neutral	2 %
Moderately satisfied	37 %
Very satisfied	51 %

When asked to categorize the things they are most happy about accomplishing thus far, the highest rating goes to "Marriage and family" or "job." Interestingly, 49% say they are happy about something related to health. One quarter selected sports accomplishments (27%) and 15% something related to an achievement in military service. More than 100 people wrote something in the "other" category. Most notable were accomplishments in the area of "service" (12%) and pursuits of the mind, such as writing, art, music, and other intellectual endeavors (5%).

42. When you think about the things you are most happy about accomplishing in your life thus far, in what areas of life are they? (check all that apply)

Marriage and family	88 %
Job	85 %
Health (perhaps surviving some disease)	49 %
Sports	27 %
Military service	15 %
Service (write-in)	12%
Writing, art, music, & intellectual pursuit (write-in)	5%

But the best insight about the sources of life satisfaction for our classmates come from their own words. Everyone was asked to describe in a few sentences one accomplishment "about which you are most happy or proud." Almost everyone responded, and the answers are revealing, and in many cases inspiring.

Marriage and Family

- With the help of my wife in our marriage of almost 50 years, we have raised two fine sons who have made good use of their talents.
- While perhaps not an accomplishment in the eyes of some, I am most happy about our marriage of over 41 years and watching the fascinating lives of our three adult children. On several occasions I faced the choice of career or marriage. In each instance I chose my family. It was always the right decision.
- My relationship with my current wife is my happiest accomplishment. My first marriage was turbulent and I was not enthusiastic about entering a second marriage. I had my mind changed by a lovely woman and we have been remarried

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for about 20 years now. Our marriage is a wonderful partnership in all aspects of our lives.

- I am pleased with my job accomplishments, but believe I will be ever more pleased as I look back on the accomplishments of my wife and son.

Job, Career, Institution Building

- Played a key role in developing a market strategy for a leading technology company that led to a critical change in product mix responsible for much of its long-term success.
- Building this company and creating jobs not only for the many employees I started out with, but now their children and some of their grandchildren. We have husbands and wives, cousins and children of employees all working together and all doing well. Started with 6 and now we have over 450, many who have worked with me for over 30 or more years.
- I have guided a rather large number of doctoral students to their PhDs, all of these have interesting jobs, and many are university professors.
- I am proud of my career in medicine. I have been of significant help to most people who crossed my path.
- Building a law practice outside the United States on my own, merging the practice with a major US law firm and becoming at different stages, Managing Partner, Head of International and Senior Partner.
- Contributed to successful delivery of multiple, highly technical military armament systems.
- Sustaining continuously for 30 years in NYC a contribution to the profession of Architecture utilizing my fortunate circumstances and education.
- Since 1995 I have led a major unit in my institution. During that time we have devised and implemented two strategic plans, carried out a \$70 million renovation of the building, built a strong staff, and positioned it for continued success in the near and medium term.
- I helped build a significant computer software business. I was CEO when we entered two new markets. These businesses are still headquartered in my hometown. They produce approximately \$2 billion in revenue and provide a large number of intellectually stimulating and financially rewarding jobs here.
- Reaching top level of a traditional career without becoming obsessive or single-minded and avoiding sacrificing relationships with family in the process. Along the way becoming fluent in two languages other than English.
- Spending entire working career of 32 years with one company, surviving countless mergers and corporate downsizings.
- Led an organization that supplied half of the nuclear plants in the free world. Helped open the markets in China and Eastern Europe to American technology. Sustained broad relationships in political circles where we brought power to emerging economies.

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Institution Building - Service

- As an administrator in higher education, designed and put in place new programs, established accreditation, created student-centered community.
- Over 8000 high school physics teachers in the US have attended enrichment programs that I have helped organize and the percent of students graduating from high school in the US who have taken a physics course has risen from less than 15% to over 36% during the past 35 years.
- Significant reductions in environmental impact for a chemical manufacturer.
- The path I took at Yale was to study languages and foreign cultures as a means to promote international understanding. I put those skills to use as an educator and diplomat in the service of my country. Fate, persistence, and skillful policies enabled us to reduce the threat of global war and diminish nuclear weapons arsenals. While other threats unsettle us now, our basic security is primarily the result of patience and diplomacy.
- I had the opportunity to serve as a full time parish priest in urban settings for 40 years.
- Throughout my career I have had the opportunity to mentor younger engineers and managers. This has broadened my impact on the success of my companies and provided me a strong sense of personal accomplishment.
- Leadership in the global utilization of peaceful nuclear power.
- I've founded three alternative high schools, designed to serve particularly difficult (and often creative) students.
- Twice, selling the senior management of my company to move in a new, risky direction; committing and rolling out self service gasoline across the US and supporting an initiative to gain access to oil from our Middle East joint ventures by leveraging our employee's technical skill sets and committing to training young, emerging native Arab leaders.
- I'm most proud of building an audience for performing artists of national and international distinction in a rural area not intrinsically rich in culture.
- Participation and leadership in human rights, peace, and justice efforts from the Civil Rights Movement to opposition to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq. I feel that such engagement has made a real difference in alleviating suffering, resisting injustice, and allowing me to live a meaningful life consistent with my deepest values.
- Starting from scratch, as a volunteer, a fundraising organization for a public health institution that has become a highly successful organization. The organization has meant the difference between life and death, between happiness and sorrow for many, and has spawned new health programs that have made a difference in the lives of many.

Military Service

- During active military service, I had several opportunities to make decisions that had significant positive impact on United States' security.

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- 26 years in the USN Nuclear Submarine Force, including 3.5 years in command of a ballistic missile submarine during the Cold War.
- Changing the way in which the US Navy used oceanographic input to more successfully chase enemy submarines.

Service to Others at a Personal Level

- I have entered into my clients' lives in, sometimes, dramatically helpful ways that have altered their lives for the better.
- I have trained a lot of students from the bachelors through the Ph.D. levels. They are generally quite successful, they have had and are having important impacts on the field, and I am proudly in touch with a large fraction of them.
- Helping thousands of older persons with disabilities and/or Alzheimer's disease to remain in their homes.
- Our children's active involvement with the institutional church and their participation in addressing the needs of the poor and oppressed and their concern for the environment.
- I have been a good doctor and helped lots of sick folks cope with serious illnesses.
- Most proud to have fought within bureaucracies for the "poor" and addicted, and that work within volunteer agencies/groups.

Sports

- Running a three-hour marathon at age 40. Boy, was that a long time ago.
- Multiple Senior National Championships and admission to the sport's Hall of Fame.

Health and Well Being

- 20 years of continuous sobriety, growth, and gratitude in A.A. [Alcoholics Anonymous]. My second chance allowed me to start a new family and lifestyle, and to reconnect with my spirituality.
- Ongoing recovery from codependency, with continued growth and balance as a caring and compassionate person with professional skills and credentials.
- Despite (or perhaps because of) a scare with melanoma and not being in the best physical shape, last summer, decided to try and climb Mt. Shasta, the last of the big western US volcanoes I hadn't climbed.

Writing, Art, Music, and Intellectual Pursuit

- I completed a book project that took seven years from start to finish. The resulting book is owned by 140 research libraries around the world.
- I am most satisfied about becoming involved in mid-life in the creative side of the visual arts.
- I am proud of making great music, adopting wonderful children, and being elected to a national honor society.

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- I'm happy about the time I was afforded to write a number of books in my field of expertise (five in total) during my time at the College of William and Mary and other schools.
- Production of some award-winning historical documentaries.
- Publishing 12 books, two of them prize winners.

Broad Life Satisfaction

- LIFE, Wonderful Profession, Marriage, Children and Spiritual Life. What else is there or could there be?
- I am happiest about my educational and professional achievements. I have been very successful as a student, a teacher, an administrator, an artist, and a well-balanced person.
- I love being a mentor for my junior colleagues and being the physician and confidant for many of my fellow faculty here at the university where I work. When one of my mentees succeeds or the health of one of my colleague's improves under my care, I am elated.
- Three times I have broken from the tried-and-true employment or life situations I was in or was offered and embarked on a risky new path or venture. Being brave enough to chance those new possibilities has been a source of deep personal esteem and has fed my philosophy of taking responsibility for shaping life. The relative successes of those ventures has been less important to me than the character I believe called forth to make the change or take the risk.
- I am proud of the work we accomplished in reducing the threat of nuclear weapons through negotiation. I am proud of achieving balance in my life between work and family with increasing emphasis on the latter. I am proud that our children are sensible, self-reliant adults. And I am lucky to be able to enjoy retirement in good health (so far).
- Penetrating foreign cultures: speaking foreign languages, living in foreign countries, having lifetime foreign friends, serving on boards of foreign companies, giving foreign language interviews and press conferences, passing as a citizen of a foreign country.
- I've been blessed with friendships that have allowed me to learn outdoor pursuits, sports such as golf and fishing, with health to pursue my vocation with minimal interruption, and enough intellect to enjoy the intelligence of others- spoken and written.
- I have tried to be whom I am and to become a good ancestor.

...And Life's Small Rewards

- I enjoy e-mailing my daughter on a regular basis with what I think are words of wisdom for her as she starts her after-college experiences. It is amazing how she seems to appreciate some of the suggestions and is willing to communicate thanks for my sharing
- Restoring our old house in Bedford...still a work in progress
- Flown over all of North America in my own plane

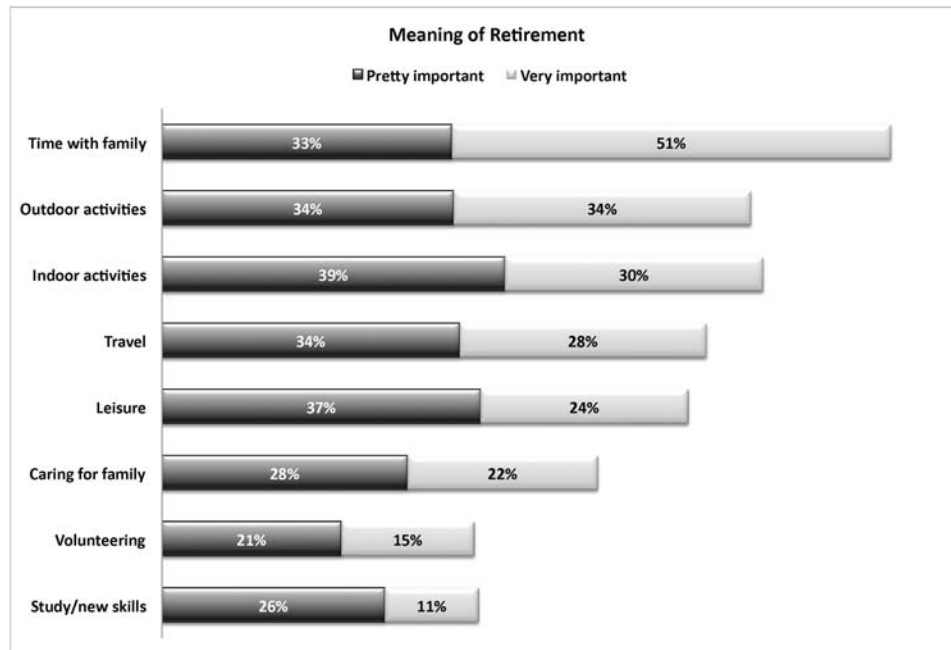
The Meaning of Retirement

Forty-one percent of our class is fully retired. On average, they retired in their early to mid sixties. What about the rest of the class? One quarter anticipate retiring in the next five years, but the remaining 28% plan to work "as long as I am able."

29. What are your plans for retirement?

I'm already retired	41 %
I will probably retire in 1-2 years	14 %
I will probably retire in 3-5 years	9 %
I plan to work as long as I am able	28 %

What is the meaning of retirement for our class? One question asked how important each of eight dimensions was for their sense of what retirement means. The most important dimension is spending more time with spouse, family member, or close friends. Also important are the opportunities to do outdoor activities (hiking, skiing, bicycling, golf), indoor activities (read, peruse the internet, crafts), and travel. Volunteering and learning new things are less important, but are rated *Pretty important* or *Very important* for about one-third of the class.



The Next 10 Years

To get more concrete about the meaning of retirement, the last question on the survey asked "What's on your To Do List for the next 5-10 years?" The answers are very interesting, and in some cases inspiring.

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For some the meaning of retirement is not yet clear.

- Having worked hard all my life, the prospect of having unlimited uncommitted time in retirement is daunting. I plan to work to maintain my health, to play as much golf as I can, and to travel with my wife to enjoyable places.
- While I am attempting to retire, I almost find myself working more than at the age of 65. I would like to travel more than am able to now. I have a 30-foot recreational vehicle which I purchased four years ago, but which has for the most part sat in the driveway. Travel, read more, work on personal projects. I am "retired," but I am doing more of the work I was doing before retiring. – is that the way it is supposed to go?

For most classmates, retirement is not a time to do nothing. Adventure and travel are prominent in the responses.

- Travel some to visit a few places I have not been (New Zealand, British Columbia, Austria), and have more time to engage in my second career, which is sculpture.
- Finish an active boat cruising plan that we started in the Mediterranean 10 years ago and plan to finish in the San Francisco Bay in about 3 more years.
- Do some adventurous sailing. Spend substantial time in France.
- Travel and lecture. Build my bird watching life list, teach others, expand our local community foundation, keep active at tennis (despite growing list of spare parts such as two titanium hips).

Some have To Do lists that are so lengthy they defy classification

- I plan to continue with my crafts, travel, spend time with my family, bicycle, help build a hospital for injured wildlife, and contribute to charities that I consider deserving.
- Music composition, inventions, writing (non-fiction -- maybe a try at fiction), physics, political involvement, legal action. Continuing: TV and radio political analysis, involvement in a small business.
- I plan to continue to teach and then to get more involved in volunteer activities, including Habitat for Humanity, and local government committees. I also would like to travel and see more of the US and spend more time in Vermont.
- Continued service in local church and foreign mission, probably mostly as a volunteer; more travel with wife and family; more singing (e.g., with male chorus); More dancing, with wife and in community; spend more time with grandkids; Assist parents at the end of their life; grow in grace and with deeper compassion for others; exercising better stewardship of resources, including the environment.
- Get Hawaii [the island] 100% renewable, learn languages, travel, build a sustainable house, build a sustainable community, write a couple of books, finish my epic, learn to play an instrument, meditate, get in great shape, lose a little weight, lower my golf handicap, ski some, surf, start a bio juice company, own an organic farm, laugh a lot - that is only the beginning.

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Others are still focused on their businesses

- Am in discussions about starting another business in my field. Most important is leading a life balance between work and play.
- Complete the successful rebuilding of some real estate we own and drive our hotel business to a higher level of success through guiding one of our sons that runs the business.
- I hope to build my current business to a substantially higher level of success. I also hope to lower my handicap and read a lot more great books.
- I have a couple of big research projects I want to do. I'll need to stay healthy and clear-headed to do that.
- Grow the company I recently started in order to sell it to a larger player in the same or kindred industry.

Still others speak of beginning a very different life.

- To break out entirely from previous patterns, doing an altogether new kind of work, perhaps going back to school to qualify. Examples might be: librarian (with a nostalgic preference for books over digital data) or teacher.
- I want to seriously commit myself to writing. I write in my profession and I understand how hard it is to write well. In the future I would like to broaden my writing to include memoirs and if successful to venture onward.

Achievement in sports is another theme.

- Get golf game in shape to shoot my age
- Take 2 challenging biking trips per year.
- Win a national championship in tennis or squash before I am 90.

There is a strong theme of learning new things or developing artistic talent

- Broaden my knowledge of the universe, the world and mankind's history and accomplishments. Learn the piano.
- Complete research and writing of a short history, family related. Master the art of watercolors.
- Resume painting, sketching, poetry, and other creative things.
- Write a historical novel, set a senior weightlifting record.
- Write more books improve piano playing.
- Learn Mandarin Chinese well enough to travel and/or live in China.
- Write and/or perform music.
- Hike the Appalachian Trail in its entirety. Teach English overseas. Learn Mandarin, Tibetan and Arabic. Go back to school to learn more.

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- In the next several years I want to continue perfecting my banjo technique, I want to keep learning (physics, for example), and I want to serve my local government, probably as town assessor.

There is also a strong theme of service running through many people's goals.

- I finally have the opportunity (time) to do volunteer work. I have begun and intend to continue.
- Continue volunteer work with SCORE, the Secure Corps of Retired Executives.
- Pursue intellectual nourishment through classes, research, writing and, perhaps, teaching once again. Volunteer with nonprofits in the environmental area. Be politically active.
- Start and nurture a 501(c)(3) organization to assist responsible adults avoid foreclosure by taking on debt to lower interest rates and provide emergency funds so mortgage payments are not missed.
- Healing racial and ethnic separation/discrimination in the city.
- Set up a statewide monitoring system for at-risk young people.
- "Welcome Home" our troops on a daily basis.
- Keep on practicing medicine as my health and skills allow. At home and, to some extent abroad, I have donated my skills to many who haven't the means to pay.
- I am planning to participate in the building of a wildlife rescue hospital in Tucson.

One classmate wants to give to his family in a quiet but important way.

- I remain the only member of my immediate family to have a college degree. I intend to do all that I can to insure at least one, if not all, of my grandchildren get a degree.

Our class is made up of hundreds of the most interesting, active, committed males of our generation. I am reminded of sitting in Woolsey for the president's speech welcoming the Class of 1963 to campus. He listed the impressive achievements of the eighteen-year-olds on my right and left—class presidents, editors of school newspapers, and outstanding athletes. What I didn't know then was how those achievements were simply barometers of what our classmates would yet achieve in the years ahead. I would love to set off on a trip with almost any five of our classmates (and their spouses) picked at random. It would undoubtedly be one of the most interesting trips of my life.

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