MIT conducts the Undergraduate Alumni Survey every four years. Three administrations of the survey have been performed, in 2005, 2009, and most recently in 2013. On our website (http://web.mit.edu/ir/surveys/alumni.html) you may find reports from each of the alumni surveys mentioned here. Alumni who graduated in select years during the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s were invited to take these surveys. We are using a subset of these alumni for this comparison report. Below are some of the highlights showing comparisons from the groups who graduated roughly ten years before each survey (2005 survey = classes of 1993-1995; 2009 survey = class of 1997; 2013 survey = class of 2002).

Note that only questions that were sufficiently similar in wording and response scale were compared across surveys. Because of this, only a small number of comparisons were possible across all three surveys. Most of the results discussed here only compare data from the 2009 and 2013 administrations.

**Education Since College**

- Significantly more respondents from the 2005 and 2013 administrations reported having enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program since graduating than from the 2009 administration. Approximately 75% of respondents from these two administrations reported enrollment, compared to approximately 62% from the 2009 administration.

- Similarly, slightly more respondents from the 2013 administration than the 2009 administration reported being currently enrolled in a graduate or professional degree program.

- Overall, more than 87% of respondents from both the 2009 and 2013 administrations reported that MIT prepared them “Very well” or “More than adequately” for graduate or professional school. An additional 10% reported that MIT prepared them “Adequately.”

**Principal Occupation and Career**

- Slightly fewer respondents from the 2013 administration (9%) than the 2009 administration (14%) reported being in “Entry-level” positions or “Executive-level” positions, while significantly more reported being in “Mid-level” positions.

- “Engineer” was the top principal occupation on both the 2009 and 2013 administrations with 19% and 20% respectively, but “Programmer, computer scientist, or systems analyst” rose from 4th on the 2009 administration at 11% to 2nd in 2013 at 14%, displacing Consultant (6% in 2013) and Financial Analyst (8% in 2013).
• Significantly more respondents in the 2009 survey administration (36%) than in the 2013 administration (26%) reported that their current position was not related to their undergraduate field(s) of study. Approximately the same percentage (35%-37%) of respondents in both surveys reported that their position was "related" to their undergraduate field(s) of study, but significantly more respondents in the 2013 administration (36%) reported that their position was specifically in the same field as their undergraduate major.

• On both administrations more than 75% of respondents reported that MIT prepared them “Very well” or “More than adequately” for their current career, with an additional 19% reporting that MIT prepared them “Adequately.”

• On both administrations approximately 85% of respondents reported being “Very satisfied” or “Generally satisfied” with their career thus far.

Figure 1A and 1B: Individual and Household Earnings, three administration comparison

**Individual Earnings**

- 2005
- 2009
- 2013

**Total Household Income**

- 2005
- 2009
- 2013
Community and Family

- Responses from the 2013 survey administration indicate more frequent interactions with people from other cultures/countries, people of different ethnicities, people with different religions, people from different economic backgrounds, and people with different values and beliefs than were reported in the 2009 survey.

Your Life Now

- The 2005 survey administration had the largest proportion (51%) of respondents who were “Very satisfied” with their lives at the time, and the proportion decreased significantly with each successive survey to 44% in 2009 and 35% in 2013. This drop was matched by a corresponding increase in the proportion of respondents who reported being “Generally satisfied,” from 37% in 2005 to 46% in 2009 and finally to 53% in 2013. There was also a slight increase over time in the proportion who reported being “Ambivalent.” See figure 2.

Evaluating Your School

- The proportion of respondents who were either “Very Satisfied” or “Generally Satisfied” with their undergraduate education at MIT remained fairly constant at around 90% across all three survey years. More than 50% of respondents in each survey administration were “Very Satisfied.”

- Approximately 65% of respondents in 2009 would definitely encourage a current
high school senior who resembles them when they were a high school senior to attend MIT. The percentage was slightly larger in the 2013 survey administration, and slightly smaller in the 2005 administration.

- Across a wide variety of categories, more respondents in 2013 than in 2009 reported that MIT prepared them “Adequately” or better. These categories included “Write clearly and effectively,” “Communicate well orally,” “Read or speak a foreign language,” and “Understand social problems,” among others.

- When asked how they would change MIT’s emphasis on a variety of aspects of undergraduate education, the top two areas where alumni wanted MIT to increase emphasis were “Teaching leadership skills,” and “Developing skills valuable in the workplace,”
  - Other categories where more than 50% of respondents selected “Increase somewhat” or “Increase a great deal” included “Overall emphasis on teaching” and “Faculty-student contact outside class.”
• Approximately 50% of respondents in the 2013 survey administration reported feeling either “Moderately connected” or “Very connected” to MIT at the time they took the survey. This was a substantial increase from 2005, when only slightly less than 30% of respondents reported this level of connection.

• By a large margin, respondents in both the 2009 and 2013 survey administrations reported that their “Friendships from college” were the most important factor in their connection to MIT of those listed on the survey.

• A significantly smaller percentage of respondents in the 2013 administration than in the 2009 administration marked that “Your residence hall” was “Not Applicable” to their connection to MIT. This may have been a result of the policy housing all freshmen on campus in 2001.

• A slightly larger percentage of survey respondents in the 2013 administration were female (43%) than in either of the other two administrations (both 39%).

• A greater percentage of respondents (46%) in the 2013 survey administration than in either of the other administrations (35% and 37%) reported that, when they started college, their family had an “Above average” standard of living compared to all American families. Correspondingly, a slightly smaller percentage of respondents reported that their families had an “Average” or “Below average” standard of living.

• Overall, more than 80% of respondents reported that their standard of living at the time they took the survey was “Above average” or “Far above average.”