

PEOPLE

Class of 2011 - Taking on the World

By: Alice V-Z Harrison '12
Editor

It was just May 7 when the St. Andrews Class of 2011 walked across the stage to pick up diplomas. Just under four months have passed and already the class of 2011 is making their way in the world – successfully.

In fact, the class of 2011 has been doing so well, and has been so gracious in sharing their news, that Director of Career Services Renée P. Jones '85, has began a tradition of updating us in real time, via e-mail, with “Senior Success Stories.” The updates happen almost daily, thanks to advances in design and technology.

“Since I took this position in the Fall of 2006, I changed the survey from a 3 page form on gold paper to a one page, double sided form with the SAPC logo at the top,” Jones said. “It is much more appealing than the previous form. In addition, Melissa Hopkins further edited the survey and uploaded it to our website. At that point, alums were able to fill out a survey online in approximately 2 minutes and click on send. Hence, I started to e-mail alumni with a link to the survey.”

Jones also credits Facebook for helping to recruit responses for the digital survey.

“Now, I ask every student to be my “friend” before they graduate,” she said. “Once an alum is my friend, I can send him/her a link on his/her wall. With this effort, responses started to come in better than ever.”

The statistics of success for the class of 2011 are quite remarkable, considering how tough today’s job market.

As of Sept. 2, Jones’ records show that we have:

117 members of the Class of 2011

58 (50%) have full time jobs
2 (1.7%) working part-time
2 (1.7%) doing an internship
23 (20%) continuing their education
2 (1.7%) serving in the military/other corps

“We have 74% of our graduates who have responded and have confirmed that they are working, in school, or in the service,” Jones said. “I have learned that other schools that are similar to us (small private schools) are getting a response of 20-35% to their surveys. Thus, when their data show that 40% of their graduates are working, it actually means that 40% of the 30% who actually responded to the surveys.”

Jones admits that not everyone is inclined to complete the graduate survey, and that some people have to be encouraged repeatedly. But, as she’ll tell you, it’s worth it, not just for the college, but for the current students.

“I would like everyone to feel that

Jennifer

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basically the go to person for info on fun and events on campus. Now that you are actually in that position, can you tell us a little of what it’s all about? As a Student Activities Coordinator, what do you do?

A.] I’m still learning the ropes in OSA, but the position of Student Activities Coordinator has been described to me as being like a cruise ship director. There’s a little bit of everything as far as activities on campus are concerned. So far I’ve made a lot of posters, learned how to hook up the OSA sound system, and coordinated with a guest performer just to name a few things. I also serve as advisor for the Student Activities Union and GANZA Core.

even in times of a challenging economy, our graduates are qualified and able to find jobs and be accepted into graduate programs of interest,” Jones said. “I truly believe that with a St. Andrews education, a person is equipped to accomplish absolutely anything he/she sets out to do.”

Jones has some advice to those preparing for the future.

“If you are just starting to look or have been looking, I would like to tell you to keep trying and not get discouraged. It is extremely important to keep a positive attitude. Remember that A-there are jobs out there. B-you must not focus on anything you lack i.e. experience. Instead focus on all the things that you can bring to an employer. C-The same uniqueness and special qualities that brought you to St. Andrews will serve you well in the ‘real world.’ Go out there and be a proud holder of a St. Andrews degree.”

Q.] You are working closely with the Student Activities Union. Can you give us an idea of some of the fun we can expect, over the course of the semester?

A.] Some of the activities we have scheduled for this semester include a few vendor events (Krazy Kustom Koozies & Initial This) and some returning favorites like the Regatta, Luau, and Halloween Party. There will be a pumpkin carving contest and then a pumpkin chunking. I am really looking forward to working with the Student Activities Union to come up with ideas for new events as well as ways to making the returning events even better.

Jennifer Roberts is located in the OSA, – and she looks forward to getting to know you!

“Think Globally, Act Locally”