Class of 2009 Postgraduate Plans Snapshot

2009 is a tough year for graduating students to land a job. With national unemployment rates climbing and layoffs continuing to occur, the number of entry-level jobs available has decreased significantly while employers have become more selective in their recruiting process. Below is an early snapshot of the plans of the class of 2009. Please note that, as is common at most liberal-arts colleges, an accurate picture of the future of the entire class is not available at the time of graduation. The information provided is culled from a sampling of seniors’ responses to a voluntary survey conducted in April, prior to graduation.

Senior Survey

A total of 327 seniors responded to the 2009 Career Services Senior Survey regarding their immediate post-graduation plans. This represents 47% of the class.

1. Breakdown by Postgraduate Plan

Among all the respondents, here is the breakdown by their plan:

- Employed: 25%
- Continuing job search: 41%
- Starting job search: 2%
- Headed to graduate school: 11%
- Awaiting school acceptance: 3%
- Completing Internships or fellowships: 8%
- Volunteering: 2%
- Planning to travel: 2%
- No plans: 6%

The data shows that 44% of the respondents are in the process of searching for jobs or awaiting school acceptance, while 36% of the respondents have either job or school admission in their hands. In the fall of 2009, 94% of the respondents will start a job, continue a job search, attend a graduate school, continue a postgraduate internship or fellowship, travel or do volunteering.

Class 2009 - Breakdown by Postgraduate Plan
2. Breakdown by Industry (Employed)

Among the jobs that 25% of the respondents have secured, 37% are in Education/Academia sector, 14% in Finance/Banking/Insurance, 6% in Non-Profit, 5% in Research, 4% in Government, 4% in International/NGO, 4% in Social/Human Services, 4% in Law, 2% in Agriculture, 2% in Communication/Media, 2% in Consulting, 2% in Sciences, and 14% in other sectors (i.e., Arts/Entertainment, Energy/Utilities, Environment, Food/Beverage, Forestry, Healthcare, Recreation/Sports, Retail, Technology).

Here is the breakdown by industry of the employed students’ jobs:
3. Breakdown by Discipline / Major (Employed)

In analyzing the majors of those employed seniors, we double count the number of students with double or joint majors. The results show that the majority of employed seniors have majored in Social Science (33%), Natural Science (21%), Interdisciplinary Programs (18%) or Humanities (14%); the rest of them in Languages (5%), Literature (4%) and Arts (4%).

Specifically, 15% major in Economics, 11% in International Studies, 7% in History, 7% in Political Science, 5% in Environmental Studies, 5% in Psychology, 4% in English & American Literatures, 4% in IPE, 4% in MBBC, and the rest in other subjects (see chart below for more details). This is not surprising, as Economics and International Studies are always two of the most popular majors at Middlebury.

Here is the breakdown of jobs by discipline and major:
4. **Breakdown by Geography (Employed)**

Among those being employed, 86% have jobs in the United States, 6% in China, 3% in Japan and 5% in other countries. Due to the downturn in domestic job market, seniors are looking for more opportunities internationally, for example in China where the economy has started improving. The majority of the employed seniors who have jobs in the States will be working...
in NY, MA, VT and CA. This is expected, as CSO has a much stronger relationship with employers in those states.

Here is the breakdown by the location of their jobs:

Class 2009 - Breakdown by Geography (Employed)

Notes:
Locations in the “Others” category: 1 unknown, 1 either Mozambique or Cape Verde, 1 Thailand, and 1 Turkey

Top 5 States:
- NY
- MA
- VT
- CA
- DC

Top 5 Cities:
- New York, NY
- Boston, MA
- Middlebury, VT
- Washington, D.C.
- San Francisco, CA

5. Comparison of Postgraduate Plans with Class of 2007 & 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plan</th>
<th>Class 2009</th>
<th>Class 2008</th>
<th>Class 2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Job search</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Headed to graduate school</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awaiting school acceptance</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internships or fellowships</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning to travel/volunteering</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No plans</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The comparison of the postgraduate plans of the respondents of Class of 2009 with those of Class of 2007 & 2008 shows the effect of the downturn in the job market. For example, the % of seniors who have secured a job before graduation drops 6% from 31% to 25%, while the % of seniors searching for jobs increased 7% from 36% to 43%.

6. Employer Information

The top hiring industries of the class of 2009 were Education/Academics (35%) and Finance/Banking (11%), followed closely by Non-profit (8%). Teach for America employed the most students (13) followed by Middlebury College (5). One of the reasons that fewer seniors are employed especially in the Finance/Banking industry is the lack of participation by Lehman Brothers, 2008’s top employer.

Of those reporting employment, the top industries and the specific employers include:

- **Education/Academics**, Teach for America, Middlebury College, Birch Wathen Lenox School, Shenzhen High School, Next Step China LLC, Mary Hogan Elementary, New Canaan Country School, The Peddie School

- **Finance/Banking/Insurance**, Hartford Investment Management Co., Audax Group, Barclays Capital, Berkshire Capital, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, EnduranceRe

- **Research**, Columbia University, Yale University, Judge Baker Children’s Center, National Institute of Mental Health


- **Government**, Department of Justice, Senator Leahy

- **International NGO**, Princeton in Asia, Peace Corps

- **Social/Human Services**, Middlebury College, FTS Counseling, Riverside Community Care

7. Comments on CSO’s Role in Senior Job Hunting

Compliments:
- Staffs are very helpful in terms of giving advice, editing documents and being encouraging about applying for positions.
• MOJO is very easy to use.
• Mock interviews with alumni are very helpful.

Room for Improvement:
• It will be great if CSO can reach out to more alumni and ask them for career advice and job help.
• Most of the job opportunities advertised by CSO concentrate on the NYC and Boston areas. Students hope that CSO can broaden the geographical areas of job opportunities.
• Students hope that CSO broadens the scope of industries that job opportunities cover, e.g., more non-environmental-related Non-Profit jobs, more non-theater-related Arts jobs.
• Make drop-in students feel more welcomed and important