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Using Alumni Surveys to Strengthen the Mathematics Department. Preliminary report.

The Mathematics Department at West Chester University of PA is in the process of developing a new B.S. degree in Applied Mathematics. As part of the proposal, the department was asked to conduct a feasibility study. To carry out this task, the department decided to send out a survey to our alumni from the past 40 years. Questions of the type, "What type of mathematics do you use on a daily basis?" and "How has your degree in Mathematics helped you in your career?" were asked, along with questions soliciting volunteers to be included in a career profiles brochure. The responses were overwhelming. In this talk, we will discuss some of the responses we received and the additional — and serendipitous — information that was obtained. We will also discuss how this data is being used not only to strengthen our proposed program, but the existing B.A. and M.S. programs as well. (Received September 14, 2004)