

# Senior confronts transition trauma

By Erin Morris  
*Special to the Collegian*

I'm one of those people that need to have a plan. I need to know what's going to happen to me next. I need a paycheck. I need my independence. What I have are student loans and a move-out date.

So it should come as no surprise that when I was approached about writing this, I almost said no. What could I possibly tell those most closely associated with Southwestern that they don't already know? What could I say about my time here that wouldn't be cliché? I didn't know. So I did what any self-respecting child of the 21st century does. I Googled it.

While skimming articles from the New York Times, Thought Catalog, and BuzzFeed, I found this:

"Remember when you were 18 years old and you first walked around this campus with fear and excitement pulsing through you? Who were you back then? Chances are, you are a completely different person now."

And I am. I'm 22 years old, walking around campus for the

last few times and realizing that my time here at SC has indeed changed the way I live and look at the world. From the many lessons I've learned, here are my top three:

## 1. Stepping outside your comfort zone is almost always a good idea.

Don't mistake this as an excuse for stupidity. College is still the place for determining what you want to do with your future and for building a strong foundation for that future. It's important, dare I say vital, that students take their work (at least some of it) seriously. Some of this stuff is legitimately going to be helpful down the road. Make sure you pay attention to that stuff. But on the other hand, don't be afraid to live a little. This is the best time to indulge your wanderlust, to get out there and try something new. Find a travel program or find an internship or a job somewhere else. It doesn't have to be anywhere exotic. My greatest travels from the last four years only took me to Dallas, but you know what? It was ten times better than spending the summer

at home fighting high-school kids for part-time jobs. And if you have the itch to travel further distances, take this little piece of advice from someone who regrets not travelling more during these last four years: Do it.

## 2. Mom and Dad aren't always right. But neither are you.

I already said I need my independence, so it should come as no surprise that one of the greatest parts of college was getting out on my own. I loved no longer living according to someone else's schedule. More than that, I found intellectual independence from peers and professors that challenged my thoughts and beliefs while still respecting them. I'm sure this has occurred to you while at SC. A new experience – whether it be a class, an internship, or just a crazy Friday night – has changed your view in some way. But don't go get-

ting cocky. Yes, your newfound wisdom is great, but Mom and Dad (or whoever) still have years of experience on you, and that should be respected. And as I prepare to graduate, that's difficult to do. I've spent four years learning more about myself and the world and I'm finally getting my diploma... and moving right back home. And this I know: when I do score that job and when I move out of the house for good, it's Mom and Dad who are going to know how to help with another it's-all-new-to-me

make mistakes. Southwestern is no exception. We all know that the Internet service is the biggest gripe, and rightfully so. Quality, high speed internet is the standard these days, not the exception. Additionally, campus should have more and better sidewalks and needs to have more lights. I could go on, but I don't need to as I'm sure you all have lists of your own. But going to another school wouldn't really change things – the list might change, but it would exist just the same. And, regardless of our school's imperfections, it was only a matter of weeks before I was calling it 'home.'

If you've made it to the end of this article, there's one more thing: these have undoubtedly been some of the most important years of my life, but in spite of what others may say, these are not the best four years of your life. Time is only what you make it. It's up to you to make it count.

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transition. Because you can bet I'm going to have questions.

## 3. Nobody's perfect, so no school will be either.

Schools, like all other institutions, are run by people who

# Midwest drive requires wide variety of music

By Maggie Dunning  
*Staff reporter*

Maroon 5's "Moves like Jagger" is blasting from my car stereo as I roll through an itty-bitty town in no where Nebraska. I'm dancing in my seat, oblivious to the world around me.

Music is vital to this scene from my typical road trip.

It is vital because if I don't listen to it, I end up in a highway hypnosis trance.

Highway hypnosis is the main reason I constantly play loud upbeat music, when I'm driving. It helps keep me alert. I admit, if people look in at me, I'm sure that sometimes it doesn't look like I'm paying

attention to anything.

My favorite way to get the type of music I want to listen to is the prehistoric way. That's right. I take it back to the good, old days of radio and CDs.

Hear me out on this one. While it may seem ridiculous to use such methods, I think local radio is a great way to get into the road trip spirit.

Local radio is spontaneous. Listening to it keeps me on my toes.

As for CDs, they are a great backup for when there just aren't any radio stations in range.

Their appeal goes beyond being good backups though.

They bring me a sense of nostalgia.

Certain CDs trigger great memories of past road trips with my family. CDs bring



back the fun.

Even with radio and CDs, sometimes I need something a little more new school to keep myself on alert.

It comes the smart phone. I have the

iheartradio app. It is honestly one of my favorite apps.

I can listen to any genre, anytime, anywhere. With endless stations, its music selection is unconstrained and convenient.

If I don't like a song I can just change the station to anything that I want. It really shines on car rides. I can't do that with radio and CDs.

The truth of the matter is, there are only two things that I absolutely need with me when I go on road trips. Music and directions.

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