

Private college pays off PUT IT IN PERSPECTIVE

ERICA DUNIGAN

Some college bound students want to be known as more than just a number.

Imagine going to a college that averages 1,600 students each year and walking into a classroom with only 20 students.

A private college is different from a public state college because they are supported by tuition, endowment, and donations from alumni and friends. Most likely, a private college will be more expensive than a public college.

The benefits of going to a private college are endless. The right size class will have a student to teacher ratio of 13 to 1. The student will never be known as a number, and the professors will always be open for questions.

Being at a school that will meet a student's academic need gives the opportunity to have a strong advising system. A student will be matched with an advisor in their major. The advisor will take the time to get to know the student. They will not let the student slip through the cracks easily. The student will feel as if someone actually cares if they fail, or pass.

A school like Southwestern College makes you feel known. The student will feel that they are important, that they matter when a decision is made about something.

There are endless opportunities for students to join organizations like Student Foundation, or Student Government Association. Also a student can feel as if they are a part of a small family, and apart of the community that

surrounds the school. There are also opportunities for students to help out in the community.

Students seek to have these benefits, but sometimes the price of tuition gets in the way. The tuition is higher at many private colleges, but students often receive more financial aid at a private college, making it cheaper than a public school.

Many private colleges, like Southwestern, offer around \$4.5 million in financial assistance to students each year.

According to an article in the New York Times, the cost of private colleges rose 81 percent between 1993 and 2004. Financial aid offered by these same institutions rose by 135 percent over the same time period, making it cheaper to go to a private college compared to before.

Many of us at SC came to play

sports, be part of an organization like Leadership or Discipleship, or to be a part of a family. The experiences that students can gain at a smaller school are numerous.

Yes, we pay a little more than we might have paid at a public college, but we get to know everyone at school. We know each professor in our department, often on a first name basis, and are able to go to them for advice.

Being at a smaller college gives us many opportunities to gain knowledge and experience before we go seek a job or graduate school after obtaining our degree. We are able to take what we learned in the classroom and apply that to the next step in our journey.

Erica Dunigan is a junior majoring in convergent journalism. You may e-mail her at erica.dunigan@sckans.edu.

What will your degree and your experience at Southwestern going to contribute to your career and your life?



TOMMY CASTOR

My bachelor's from SC is in Communication in 2008 and my master's from SC is in Management in 2010. My degrees and experience at Southwestern really has set me up nicely for my career.

The campus radio station. I feel much more prepared in my current job in radio, considering I had the proper foundation from Southwestern during my educational process.

There have been several instances where people I work with have commented on my education at Southwestern and have been really impressed with what I know and the opportunities I received at SC. I also had great chances to make connections and network with people that I still associate with in my industry, and those connections have. In some cases, put me a step ahead. My education at Southwestern really has set me up nicely for my career.

Tommy Castor graduated in 2008 with a Bachelor's of arts after studying Communication.

Word on the Hill

What is the biggest obstacle to getting a good night's sleep?

By Erica Dunigan



"My cell phone distracts me."

Christine Sheppard
nursing
freshman



"Work and my 10-month-old daughter."

Jason VenJohn
Assistant Women's Basketball Coach



"An ever changing list of projects, having too much to do, and Facebook."

Darin Hart
Laptop program and helpdesk manager



"My roommates."

Trey Bruton
undecided
freshman



"The knowledge that I have exams coming up and that I have to study for them, and I probably should get to work on that."

Wendy Stohler
psychology
senior



"Need, opportunities, everybody has a project that they are working on and they want help and that is constantly distracting."

Martin Rude
Director of Outreach Ministries



LINDSAY WILKE

My degree from Southwestern (B.A. Biology, Minors in Leadership Studies and Psychology) taught me how to think critically and adapt problem solving skills to any situation. Although I do not regularly deal with biology information in my every day job, I do regularly employ the problem analysis and synthesis skills that I was taught in my

classes. My Southwestern professors taught me to observe the world around me and then challenged me to understand what was going on and encouraged me to be a positive change agent. These are skills that I will use for the rest of my life!

My experiences on the Leadership team, in athletics, and as an ambassador at Southwestern showed me how important it is to be able to work as a team with people who are different than you. I learned to recognize my own strengths and weaknesses and value what others bring to the table to accomplish a goal. No matter where I go in life or what I do, this will remain a valuable skill.

Lindsay Wilke graduated in 2008 with a Bachelors degree in Biology, and a minor in Leadership Studies and Psychology.

Technology interferes with sleeping habits



MAGGIE COLLETT

As you read this, you probably have your laptop open, your cell phone on, and your iPod in your back pack. Chances are, you also recently watched TV or maybe caught up on your favorite show on Hulu. And sometime within the past few days, you stayed up way too late because you were distracted by one of

the above mentioned things. Technology has caused us to constantly need to be in touch. In the two minutes that it took to construct the previous paragraph, I checked my Facebook page and Twitter account approximately four times. Granted, it was just a glance to see if I had new notifications, but it was a distraction nonetheless.

More and more often, I find myself putting off homework to download music or finish a text conversation with someone. By the time the album is fully transferred to my iTunes and the text messages have finally come to a halt, it's midnight and I'm staring my homework in the face. Frantic, I speed through assignments, putting in significantly less effort than originally planned. I know the work is sec-

ond-rate, but I just can't seem to peel myself away from all the gadgets surrounding me.

Before I know it, 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning are rolling around and I'm beginning to go cross-eyed, exhaustedly staring at my computer screen. I shut it down and stumble to the sink to brush my teeth. Before I can even get in bed, though, I already know what I'll do.

After double checking that all chargers are plugged in, I check my phone. Although I know there won't be any new text messages, missed calls, or Twitter mentions in the dead of the night, I have to be sure. I then scroll through my apps and open my Facebook mobile. It doesn't come as a shock that

there is nothing new, not even an updated status.

It's usually about this time that I start to get restless. Although 15 minutes ago I had been tired beyond belief, I now can only lay in bed staring at the ceiling. Once again, I turn to my phone. Usually I'll open my Kindle app and finish the chapter in my latest book. By the time I officially fall asleep, it's

4:30 or 5 a.m. and my alarm is set for three hours later. No college student can run on three hours of sleep.

Naturally, the next day I shuffle around campus in sweatpants with coffee in hand. And the reason for my misery can be attributed to one thing: technology and the capabilities it has given

me. So how hard can it be to give up these things? My four-year-old nephew seems to manage just fine. In fact, a few weeks ago when I babysat, the only thing that he was concerned about before bedtime was making sure that I read the next chapter in his book out loud.

My goal for the next couple of weeks is to unplug myself from electronics by 10 o'clock

at night. It's about time that I started focusing less on social networks, Androids, and Jersey Shore. Next time I have the urge to tweet about something as I'm lying in bed, maybe I'll turn my phone off instead and focus on sleeping for more than three hours.

Maggie Collett is a freshman majoring in communication. You may e-mail her at margaret.collett@sckans.edu.

PERSONAL COLUMN

Actor reveals musical talent

LEA SHORES

Most people know Taylor Momsen for her role 10 years ago as Cindy Lou Who in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, for her current role as Jenny Humphrey on the hit show *Gossip Girl*, or for being notoriously whiny in press interviews.

What Momsen should be known for is as frontwoman and songwriter for the band, The Pretty Reckless.

The band's first album, *Light Me Up*, was released in the United Kingdom Aug. 30, 2010 and debuted at No. 6. Fans waited patiently for the album to be released in the United States, Feb. 8.

Despite her age (she is just 17)

Momsen's lyrics deal with sex, drugs, death, and love. Aging her further are her raspy vocals, as if she's been smoking cartons of cigarettes.

Reviews of the album suggest fans of Paramore and Evanescence give The Pretty Reckless a listen. However, the sound is much more like the rock of Hole, Courtney Love's band from the 90s.

Most of the album is filler material, the type of stuff you listen to once and then skip over. She tries too hard at times to have the "bad girl" image but if you can get over that, the album is worth \$7.99 on iTunes.

The band's first single, *Make Me Wanna Die*, premiered on the *Kick-Ass* soundtrack. It's

driving rhythm makes the song ideal for driving too fast down the highway or getting revved up for the big game.

The title track, *Light Me Up*, also takes its inspiration from the 90s, sounding like something from Alanis Morissette. It's not as heavy as *Make Me Wanna Die*, and the lyrics say a lot about the kind of person Momsen is. Known for having a "rebel without a cause" attitude, Momsen sings,

"I don't think I can be anything other than me". Cliché, yes, but Momsen means it. Hidden at the end of the album, is the one song that makes it all worth it and shows Momsen's true talent for songwriting. The song, *You*, is a lyrical,

acoustic ballad. Unlike most of the other material on the album, it's actually believable that Momsen has experience with love and relationships. The lyrics are heart wrenching and her vocals are haunting.

It's unclear at this point whether or not The Pretty Reckless will have any wide spread success but Momsen has a bright future in song writing. Life experience will benefit her lyrics. Momsen has already written songs for other artists, most notably Heidi Montag of *The Hills* fame—if you consider her an artist.

One way or another, Momsen is sure to stick around the music scene for a while. *Lea Shores is a senior majoring in English. You may e-mail her at lea.shores@sckans.edu.*

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