

Word on the Hill

What class are you dreading the most next fall and why?

By Drew Logsdon and Monica Springer



"Animal Physiology. I'm definitely not a doctor."

Emily Stephens
biology
sophomore



"Microeconomics. It sounds difficult."

George McNitt
sports management
freshman



"Responsibilities for the Future. It's a night class."

Moses Harper
sports management
junior



"Genetics. I heard Pat Ross was tough."

Farai Kwaramba
chemistry junior



"Speech. Because it's with Tracy Frederick."

Amber Nubine
nursing
freshman



"Photography. I've never taken good pictures in my life."

Brett Smith
philosophy and religious studies



"Creative Dramatics and Directing. I'm taking them at the same time."

Elizabeth Higbee
theatre
sophomore



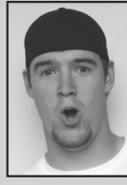
"Ditto on Higbee."

Abram Rankin
undeclared
sophomore



"Music Theory. I know nothing about piano."

Jeremiah Roberts
music education
freshman



"Therapeutic Modalities. It just sounds hard."

Nathan Morrison
athletic training
sophomore

Is education really worth it?



Monica Springer

I was hungry the other night. So I pulled out a wrinkled \$1 bill from the pocket in my jeans and I headed to the vending machine.

It was late, that time when it was almost time to go home.

The vending machine didn't like my wrinkled dollar. I had to smooth it out on the door frame.

I tried once more, and the ma-

chine wouldn't take it.

I smoothed it out once more.

I wondered, then, if I would still be pulling out wrinkled dollar bills from my pockets five, 10, or 15 years from now.

When my vending machine debacle was solved and I successfully had my crackers, I ran into some interesting facts. The last thing I want to read about on the internet is the economy and recessions, but this caught my eye.

The headline read, "What is the Value of a College Education?"

My immediate thought was not much.

Last week when I checked my credit report I saw that my pile of student loans was, in fact, larger than I ever imagined it would be.

I wouldn't even call it a pile. It's a mountain.

And I don't do well in highly elevated areas.

In the article, under "College and Education" in Yahoo Finance, there is a cost calculator. It asked for my current age, retirement age, anticipated income with no degree, and anticipated income with a degree.

It also asked for annual raises. I left it at three percent.

My current age is 22. My retirement age was 68, my anticipated income with no degree was \$20,000, and my anticipated income with a degree was \$25,000.

Once I hit submit I eagerly awaited my results.

With a bachelor's degree my career earnings potential was \$2,317,997. With no degree my

potential was \$1,854,397. Having a degree, Yahoo Finance told me, would mean that I would earn \$463,599 more than my uneducated counterparts.

If I took that difference and subtracted my student loans plus interest, well...you don't need to know that depressing number.

I imagined reading an article with the headline "Is a College Education Really Worth It?" and I wondered what it would say.

I have friends who live in large cities who have no college education. Sure, they make a dollar or so less than somebody with a bachelor's degree, but there's a major difference.

They have no debt.

I wonder if the past few years of my life have been worth it.

My best friend lives in Denver. She has a newer car than I do, new furniture, a new washer and dryer she bought with financing, her own apartment, and a dog.

I tried to use something called Care Credit last week to finance a root canal.

I got rejected. And I wasn't surprised. Who would give money to a college student with a mountain of debt and no real job?

Not to mention, there is, more than likely, no starting out in a city like Denver for me. There will be no professional sporting teams to watch, no big, fancy office spaces to work in, or exotic city views from my cubicle.

After I graduate I will likely

move back in with my parents.

I know countless graduates who have done this, including my brother, but I never under any circumstance thought I would be one of those people.

I'm different.

I've worked since high school. I bought my own car. I pay for the things that I need and I try my best not to ask my parents for money.

And as of April 23, 2008, I don't think that has gotten me anywhere.

Yahoo says I will be rewarded when I'm older. At 30 I will earn more than \$30,000. At 40, more than \$41,000.

This might be laughable, but at 67 I will earn more than \$90,000 a year, according to this silly cost calculator.

Was it worth it?

Professors, staff have impact on life



Drew Logsdon

It's a small offering, but I want to publicly thank the staff and professors who have put your time and energy into the lives of students. On behalf of my peers and myself, thanks for investing in the furthering of our education.

During my four years here, I have learned inside and out of the classroom from many of you. I would like to thank those of you who have personally affected me.

Roger Moon, your Voice and Diction class was my very first to step into a classroom on campus in the fall of 2004. You showed me I had nothing to be afraid of. The "VD Safari's" will never be forgotten.

Chris Douglas, you allowed us to expand our Mind, Body and Universe.

Dan Daniel, through teaching us how to Research Across the Disciplines you inadvertently taught us all about jazz.

Allyson Moon and Tim Shook, you continue to teach our campus to wipe out Creativity-killers and retain the flow.

Tim Shook thanks for your patience with me in both Class and Private Piano.

Tom Hoffgan, thanks for sharing your in-depth guitar wisdom.

Karen Craig, for teaching intervals and key signatures early in the morning.

Dr. Claudia Geer, for teaching me the world of Developmental Psychology, while I strove to get a sticker of congratulations for an A on your tests. Thanks for that sticker.

Dr. Jill Swartz, thanks for getting us "out of our heads" enough to see Art as Therapy.

Dr. Beth Sheppard, your Biblical knowledge astounds me. I am so glad to have had the opportunity to study under you.

Pam Green, thanks for helping me through taking Intro and Foundations of Education simultaneously in one semester. I especially enjoyed presentation days because of our "room mother" program.

Dr. Gardner, thanks for being flexible and willing to help me complete my minor by adding an independent study to your schedule this spring.

Dr. Bill DeArmond, your enthusiasm and knowledge for the History of Television and Cinema has given us ours.

Tracy Frederick, who inspired us to write down more than what someone else found to be true, and to expound on it with our own words and findings. May we continue to perpetuate the dominate hegemonic position of communication as both sending and receiving simultaneously.

Steve Rankin, thanks for your leadership and guidance. Thank you for helping me learn to lead.

Jodi Combs, Todd Moore,

Kristina Harding, Leslie Grant, Stephanie Humphries, Sally Benson, Sheleah Taylor, Rodney Worsham, Tami Schmidt, Lai-L Clemons are the past and present staff of the admissions office. You have made representing our school not only fun, but a privilege. Thank you for the opportunity to bring in prospective students.

Tom Jacobs, thanks for imparting wisdom that extends beyond the classroom. Every one of those quotes we post of yours has a learning experience behind it. Well, most of them. Thanks for giving us so much of your time, and for putting up with us. I am grateful for the turn-around you have made possible in our department and am glad to have been a part of it.

Martin Rude, your excitement and sincerity are contagious. Thanks for dreaming big, pushing us out there, and giving us an opportunity to accomplish much more than I imagined we could have.

Jim Helmer, you taught me to persevere, and through perseverance taught me character.

You believed in me through the tough times, and encouraged me all the way through the finish line. I am proud to have run for your teams. Thanks Coach.

And last but certainly not least, thanks to Stacy Sparks. My only regret is that we didn't have you on faculty earlier in my college career. I have truly appreciated learning how to tell stories in a new way from you.

You keep our staff in line, make us do our jobs, and have always been interested in the who, what, and where of our next step as seniors. I'm thankful to have had the chance to learn the ways of professional print and page

design from you, and am grateful for both your advice and encouragement along the way.

The professors and staff mentioned above turn this small college that could be a rinky-dink place into an institution of big-time, real-life learning.

I am genuinely grateful to have had the chance to learn from each of you.

Correction

In the last issue of the Collegian Daniel Daniel's name was spelled incorrectly. The Collegian regrets this error.

Teachers should not be armed

By Samantha Gillis
Staff reporter

Fighting fire with fire.

This is what Oklahoma and Wisconsin lawmakers are encouraging when they want to allow teachers and administrators to carry guns in schools to protect students in case of a school shooting.

On the other hand, Kansas lawmakers have repeatedly opposed the bills.

Many schools have installed metal detectors, cameras, and surveillance patrols.

Shootings have decreased since 1990 according to Nick Perry of The Seattle Times. So

why add guns to a method that is safe and that works?

The issue is not just protecting students during an attack but to predict when a student is mentally disturbed.

If teachers and administrators were allowed to carry guns they would also need a firearms permit.

One of the requirements to obtain a permit is to go through a gun safety class and then pass a gun safety test. The class lasts about an hour and the test last about an hour as well. This doesn't seem like much time—especially in the name of safety. After this is completed, the gun owner would have to

go through a background check. Once the owner has completed all the requirements and finally has a gun, what happens if they do not know how to use it?

How safe would you feel if the person "protecting" them cannot hit the broad side of a barn? Would the students be in more danger?

It seems reckless anytime we allow guns to be carried into public places, even if by authority figures. Ron Avi Astor, a professor at the University of South Carolina, is a specialist in school violence. He said, "In most school shootings there

were fairly large groups of students who knew that person had a gun, had the intent, and made threats. It is extremely rare that a shooter does not talk to anyone about it first." There will always be those mentally ill people in the world who want to hurt others. The bottom line is guns and schools do not mix.

It may seem naive to believe taking other precautions towards ending school shootings will work better than simply arming teachers with guns. But it is the only way that will work.

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