

TCU
DAILY SKIFF
GRADUATION

DECEMBER 2008



Number of students graduating in December on rise



Students look at their newly-earned diplomas at the commencement ceremony in May. Over the past few years, the number of students graduating in December has increased.

By Logan Wilson
Staff Reporter

For the past few years, December graduation rates have increased. Later this month, more than 800 students will receive their degrees, a university official said.

Kristi Harrison, manager for academic progress, said 885 students will receive their degrees during this month's commencement ceremony. This number includes students who finished their degree requirements this past summer and students who completed their degree requirements during this semester.

This year, 670 students finished their degree requirements during the fall semester, Harrison said, up from 600 students last year.

Harrison said almost all majors and schools have seen an increase in the number of December graduates. The AddRan College of Liberal Arts and the Neeley School of Business have seen the biggest increases, she said.

This trend is not unique to TCU. Baylor University has also seen an increase in December graduation rates.

Kathleen Morley, director of Institutional Research & Testing at Baylor, said 621 undergraduate and 190 graduate degrees will be handed out during this year's fall commencement. Last year, Baylor gave 585 undergraduate and 190 graduate degrees during the December commencement, she said.

Harrison said the university

NUMBERS

670
students finished degree requirements this fall

600
students finished degree requirements in fall 2007

Commencement

When: Dec. 20, 1 p.m.
Where: Daniel Meyer Coliseum

always expects more students to graduate in December than in August.

"December is always going to be bigger, and that's just because that's when most students finish up," Harrison said.

Although Harrison said the university has more graduates than ever before, she can't say if the trend will continue.

"It's hard to know because it just depends on whether it takes the kids four years to graduate or whether it takes them five or whether it takes them six," Harrison said. "It just depends on when they came in and how quickly they get their course work done."

Commencement will take place Dec. 20 in Daniel Meyer Coliseum.

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Student graduates, returns to earn second major

By Kristin Butler
Staff Reporter

For some students, graduating with a second degree within a semester after earning the first degree may seem impossible. For Krista Jennings, it is a reality.



Jennings, a senior working on her second degree, graduated in May with a bachelor of fine arts degree in dance and is now graduating again in December with a bachelor of arts degree in writing.

Jennings said dance is her first choice for a career, but she wanted to have another major to give her more opportunities.

“I just went through the catalog and highlighted classes I would be interested in, and found that a lot of the classes I was picking were English classes,” she said.

The 22-year-old from Lawrenceville, Ga., plans to stay in Fort Worth after her second graduation.

Jennings spent the summer interning with Dance Magazine in New York, but said she found that New York is not for her right out of graduation.

Jennings has been dancing since she was 5 years old. She said she is passionate about choreography, and her favorite type of dance is jazz, but she also does modern dance, ballet and tap.

Denise Jennings said her daughter would make up dances with her brother when they were younger.

“Whenever there was an audience during holidays, she would cook something up,” Jennings’ mother said.

As to Jennings’ writing, De-

nise said her daughter began to show a voice in writing during middle school and was able to develop that into talent.

This year, Jennings has been working as an intern for TCU Press, the university’s academic press, which annually publishes nine to 12 books focusing on the history and literature of Texas and the American West. Jennings said magazine writing is her favorite area.

Regarding her love for choreography, Jennings said her ability to listen to music and come up with a dance to go with the song depends on the time in her life.

“Sometimes I’ll just hear a piece of music and be like ‘aha’

“
Sometimes
I’ll just hear
a piece of
music and be
like ‘aha’ and
just see the
people in my
head.”

Krista Jennings
dance and writing Major

and just see the people in my head,” she said. “They start moving, and I’ll take it down.”

Last spring, Jennings received an undergraduate research grant from TCU for \$750. She used the money to produce a dance concert that she choreographed.

Jennings said she was able to have rehearsal time with several people to get to know how they learn and work in dance.

“It confirmed a lot of things for me,” she said. “I have had a

lot of interest in dance, and this really showed me how to make opportunities for myself. It was one of the highlights of my college career.”

Elizabeth Gillaspay, an associate professor of ballet who has known Jennings since she was a freshman in 2004, said Jennings has a unique perspective around which she crafts her choreographies.

“Krista is a tremendously versatile dancer, and she has a wide range of movements and styles she uses in her dance,” she said.

Gillaspay said Jennings is a leader, responsible and insightful not just in dance, but in life.

Jennings is also a member of the Chi Tau Epsilon, the dance honor society. In 2007, she was chair of the AIDS benefit concert that campus puts on every year, which involves performers such as singers, dancers, comedians and musical artists.

“I was really proud because people enjoyed it,” she said. “Sometimes doing art you feel like you don’t contribute, but to have art help a greater cause is amazing. I also had a relative that had HIV and passed away, so it defiantly made me reflect back on that point in my life.”

Jennings said she is glad she picked TCU to get her two degrees. She said when she looked at colleges and had the choice between Southern Methodist University and TCU, the choice was clear.

Her mother shared the thought.

“If she wasn’t happy with her choice of TCU, I wouldn’t have been happy either,” she said.





Krista Jennings, a senior writing major, graduated in May with a degree in dance then returned this fall for her writing degree.

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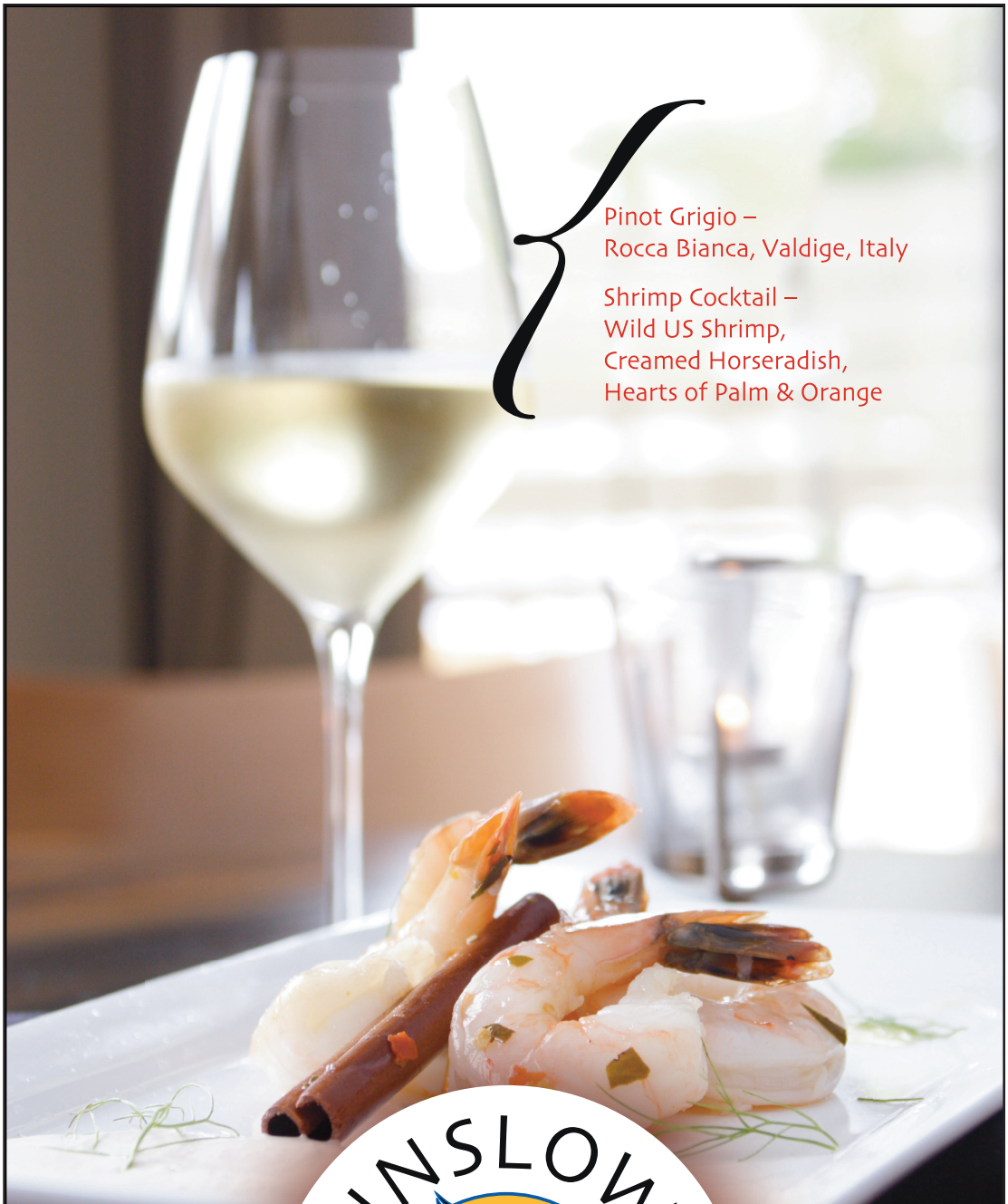
Courtland Kilpatrick



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GRADUATION

Student hopes to start life in New York as opera singer

By Chelsea Smith
Staff Reporter

Voice performance major Suzanne Vinnik probably isn't the only 22-year-old who dreams of making it big as a singer in New York.

But Vinnik doesn't want to write the next chart-topping single or see her face on MTV. In fact, the Las Vegas native said she barely follows pop music.

"I pretty much listen to opera constantly," the soprano said. "Sometimes I need a break from it, so I'll just listen to whatever's on the radio, but it's pretty much all I listen to."

Vinnik is already a step ahead compared with some of the other aspiring vocalists headed to New York. She signed the lease on an apartment in November, and she's scheduled to make her Carnegie Hall debut next May. Vinnik said she's lined up sev-

eral other singing engagements in the city and other East Coast locations.

Stephanie Odabashian, Vinnik's former roommate, says Vinnik's initiative sets her apart from other vocalists.

"She just goes for it," Odabashian said. "A lot of people in the music school really want to be singers, and they do all they can to do that, but Suzanne's been going to auditions all semester. She's taking really big steps and really big risks to follow her dream."

Vinnik's friend and fellow voice performance major Oscar Seung said it's "high time" she moved to New York to pursue her singing career. He said he's confident Vinnik will make the transition smoothly.

"She's fully capable of taking care of herself," he said. "I think the city should look out for her."

Vinnik said she can't wait to leave school behind and start her career as a professional singer in New York.

"This is exactly where I belong," she said. "It's fast-paced, like me, and people are no-nonsense. There's just so much culture here with all of the opera companies and the symphony — it's where the heart of classical music is."

The world of classical music is a small one, Vinnik said, so she already knows plenty of other opera singers who live in New York. She said her biggest concern is finding a day job that pays well enough for her to pay for voice lessons and travel but won't take up too much of her time.

"I want to do something still involved with music," Vinnik said. "So I've been thinking about either studying PR or working with an opera company as an intern."

Vinnik said she has also consid-

ered the idea of working as a fashion consultant for other aspiring opera singers.

"As an opera singer, you're a travelling salesman and you're selling yourself," she said. "There are people who go in there and they look like they rolled out of bed. It's like a business. You should look professional. You would not believe how many opera singers are out there, all fighting for the same parts."

Vinnik's been in the business long enough to pick up a few tricks over the years. She got her first big break in Las Vegas at age 8.

San-ky Kim, one of Vinnik's voice professors, said Vinnik's talent was so advanced he sometimes wondered what she was doing at TCU.

"She came here at 18 with a vocal instrument that was pretty mature for her age," Kim said. "We cannot really provide her with all of that opportunity within the school because of the talents she has. I wish I could have just pushed her out of the school system to go even further in the professional world."

Vinnik said she and Kim got off to a "bumpy" start her freshman year, but she's come to respect him in the last few years.

"He really helped me graduate and do my senior research project so I could get out as soon as possible and start singing," Vinnik said.

Singing opera always interested her far more than her studies, she said.

"Being in the academic world made me realize that I want to be a performer," Vinnik said. "I want to be on stage; I don't want to study and read books about things I'm not interested in."



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Jenna Lewis	Nicole Zamora

Student one step ahead of game upon graduation

By Krystal Upshaw
Staff Reporter

His high school friends called him foolish for skipping his high school senior year, but senior finance and entrepreneurial management major Ian Magladry has no regrets.

He enrolled at TCU as a freshman his senior year of high school at 16 years old with only one thing in mind: getting ahead. This December, he graduates at 20 with a 3.6 GPA from the Neeley School of Business.

“The real source of motivation is getting things accomplished,” Magladry said.

By getting things accomplished, he meant something more challenging. Magladry grew up in El Paso and attended Coronado High School. In October 2004, he decided to graduate high school early because he wanted a change.

It was within reach to graduate early, and Magladry was tired of living in El Paso, he said.

Magladry took a written equivalency test and attended night school to be eligible for graduation with the 2005 senior class. He attended prom, and he walked in the class of 2005 graduation.

Magladry said most of his friends were already seniors, and the friends in his graduating class didn't consider his decision out of character. His friends might have supported his decision, but his high school basketball coach wasn't thrilled about his 6-feet-9-inch center not returning for the 2005-06 basketball season.

The coach was upset with Magladry's decision and tried to convince Magladry to move in with him so that Magladry could play his senior year, Magladry said.

In spite of this, Magladry decided to miss his last year to play high school basketball to pursue his college degree early. His parents stood behind his decision.

Both of Magladry's parents supported the decision, but his father definitely influenced him, Magladry said.

The same year Magladry graduated from high school, his parents were in the process of moving. Not sure where his family would take him, Magladry applied late in the application cycle for TCU, but was later accepted. His parents decided to move to Rancho Cucamonga, Calif., miles away from the place he knew as home.

“I moved my parents from El Paso to California, spent four days in California and

then came straight to TCU to start college,” Magladry said.

In fall 2005, Magladry had a new home, new school and new friends. Even though most of his peers were older, Magladry didn't consider his age a barrier in his transition to college life.

“There certainly weren't really any academic barriers,” he said. “I felt like I was capable of doing the work.”

His freshman year, Magladry had to depend on friends to buy cough syrup for him when he had a cold because he was too young to purchase it himself. However, he didn't experience a lot of problems with being younger than everyone else, Magladry said.

Like most college freshmen, Magladry had trouble finding other students with similar interests during his first semester. He lived in Brachman Hall, which is located within the Greek residential area, but he had no interest in Greek life. In spring 2006, he decided to look elsewhere to find friends and joined the volleyball club.

“My volleyball teammates created a good network of people to hang with,” he said.

He served as president of the volleyball club for almost two years. He also served as president for the Society for Human Resource Management at Neeley.

School activities made his transition into college life better, but courses like business law and international business allowed Magladry to explore a new interest: business.

Magladry started his freshman year with the intention of studying political science with a minor in history. After taking his first economics course, Magladry changed his major to prebusiness. After entering the Neeley School of Business, he declared finance as his major after taking his first accounting course.

This class gave him a good idea of the heart and science of business, Magladry said.

Later, Magladry added entrepreneurial management as his second major because it's not strictly based on numbers.

Magladry said he enjoys people more than numbers, and entrepreneurial management allows him to have a more humanistic approach to business.

One of his first projects had to do with how businesses can help people. In his freshman year, he was heavily involved with a project to raise wages for TCU employees to decrease the need for employees to work multiple jobs for a living. Magladry considers taking care of people a necessity in business just as much as



Courtesy of ANNE MARIE JUDD
Ian Magladry, a senior finance and entrepreneurial management major, poses for a picture at an overlook on the coast of California last summer.

making money.

His understanding of social responsibility is what makes Magladry admirable, said Garry Bruton, professor of management.

Bruton met Magladry while teaching international business, which Magladry credits as one of his favorite classes at TCU.

“Business is more than making money; it's also improving people's lives,” Bruton said. “I think Ian reflects that very much.”

Bruton described Magladry as a personable student who had a lot to contribute to classroom discussion.

Professor of finance Peter Locke had a similar experience with Magladry in his

advanced investments course.

“Ian was always engaged, and that's just fantastic for a professor,” Locke said.

Both professors agreed that Magladry has a lot of creativity, and that he enjoys challenging course material. The professors said they expect a great future for Magladry in business.


Now that graduation is near, Magladry's next goal is getting into law school next fall. He's currently interested in studying a range of topics from corporate litigation to international and comparative law.

He applied to 17 top-tier law schools based on the U.S. News & World Report

law school rankings. His top choices for law school include Stanford University; University of California, Berkeley; and University of California, Los Angeles. He was accepted into the College of William & Mary law school but has yet to make a final decision.

After four years at TCU, Magladry says he enjoyed his experience socially and academically.

“It's definitely changed my perspective on viewing the world and viewing business, and shaping my desires on who I want to be later in life,” Magladry said. “Whether in a positive or negative light, is yet to be determined.”



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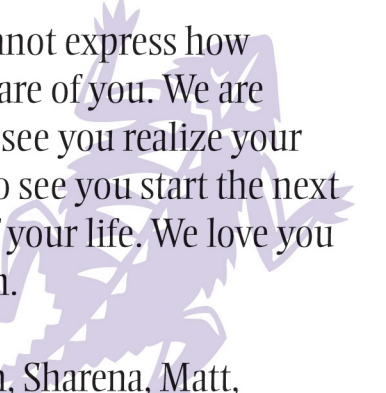


Mandi Stucks



Mandi,
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Dad, Mom, Sharena, Matt,
Kandace, Austin, Maloree,
Kallee, Regan, Mattee & Lexee




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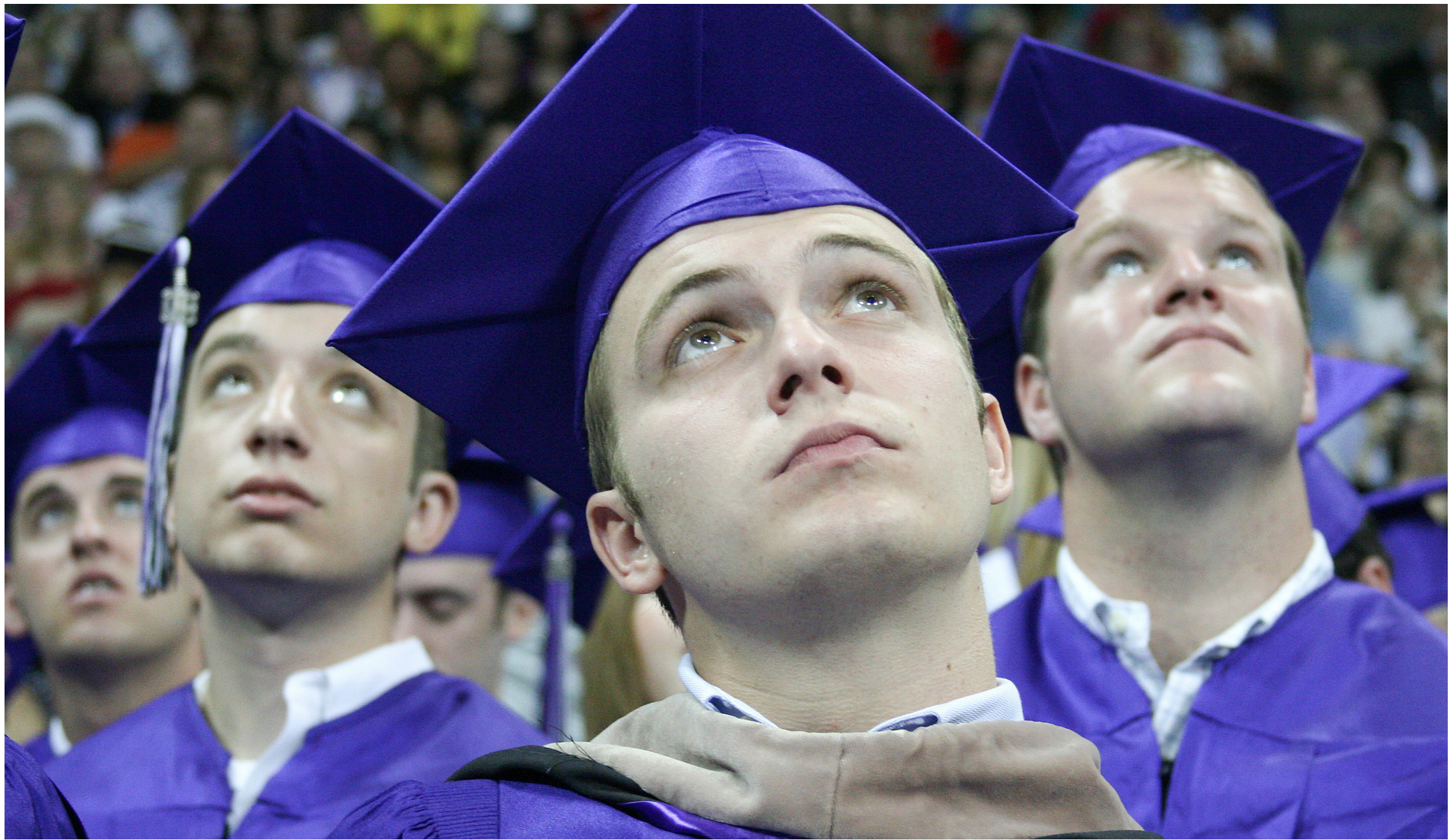
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TCU Faculty and Staff



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Students look on at friends and family as they prepare to receive their diplomas at the spring commencement ceremony in May. This fall, officials have said some students are turning to graduate school as an alternative to finding a job in the nation's financial downturn.

Some turn to grad school in light of poor job market

By Rose Baca
Staff Reporter

Amid the economic downturn, some graduating seniors are turning to graduate school in hopes of avoiding the troublesome job market, a university official said.

John Thompson, executive director of career services, said

during an economic crisis he sees many students turn to graduate school because they didn't get job offers or weren't satisfied with the jobs they were offered.

"Graduate school is always an option," Thompson said. "But it's a more attractive option when the job situation isn't very good."

Emily Cody, a senior history

and English major, said she has begun the application process to get into the graduate history program on campus.

Cody said her decision to apply to graduate school was not affected by the state of the current job market.

"From what I understand, it's a common misconception that lib-

eral arts majors can't get jobs," Cody said.

Businesses want people that have the critical thinking skills that are taught in a liberal arts major, Cody said.

Thompson said job opportunities for fall graduates are not as great as those that graduate after the spring semester. Many companies have training programs that start in June, and he said the number of open positions a company may allot each year are usually filled by the time a fall graduate looks for a job.



A student at May's commencement ceremony wears a decorated cap to stand out.

Most graduate programs start in the fall semester, so December graduates are forced to wait before they can begin their graduate program, Thompson said. In the meantime, graduates can look for temporary part-time work or internships, and they have the advantage because they are col-

lege graduates, he said.

Several companies are more inclined to hire a college graduate as an intern as opposed to a

current student simply because they have more experience, Thompson said.

Peter Worthing, director of the graduate program for the history department, said it is difficult to know if there has been a change in the number of undergraduates going to graduate school, and the only real way for him to tell is by the number of applicants that apply to get into the program, which has not changed much from last year, he said.

Generally, the graduate history program has only one or two applicants interested in starting in January or mid-year, and most graduating seniors apply to begin the graduate program in the fall, Worthing said.

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Lauren John, a senior math major graduating in December, (left) and her friend Julie Hasselblad, pose for a picture in July in Lake Tahoe, Calif. The two were on a summer vacation visiting Lake Tahoe for the Fourth of July holiday.

Courtesy of MELISSA BELL

Senior followed an unexpected road in college

By Victoria Maranan
Staff Reporter

Lauren John did not ever see herself joining a sorority before coming to college.

“I wasn’t ready for the stereotype they’re going to place on me just because I’m a sorority girl,” she said.

The senior mathematics major considered joining a sorority after being encouraged by her mother and a friend from church.

“It also makes me laugh at myself because I nonchalantly went through sorority recruitment and got more out of the experience than I ever thought I would,” she wrote in e-mail.

John, now president of the Sigma Kappa sorority, said she found her niche in joining the sorority.

“Joining Sigma Kappa was the best decision I made once I got to TCU,” she wrote in an e-mail. “I feel I have grown so much as a friend and a leader in Sigma Kappa that my life would not be as rich without it.”

Rebecca Schroeder, senior movement science major and one of John’s sorority sisters, said John was very quiet the first time they met.

“First thing, she came off as

quiet, but she’s really not,” she said. “When you get to know her, she can be outgoing.”

John has wanted to be a math teacher since she was in middle school because of one of her own

“
She’s an overachiever who performed extremely well in all situations: teaching, writing and creating curriculum. She has many strengths

Janet Kelly
associate professor

math teachers.

“Starting out in middle school, I had this really good math teacher. He was crazy and really loud and I was this little shy seventh grader,” she said. “He was excited about math and was so approach-

able that he helped me see that I’m pretty good at this.”

John said being a math teacher works well with her values.

“I’m one of those people who likes to give back,” she said. “I feel that it’s my job to do something that is helping people, so I decided ‘hey, I can be a math teacher.’”

John said she wants to be a math teacher to get rid of the math stereotype and help people not to dislike math.

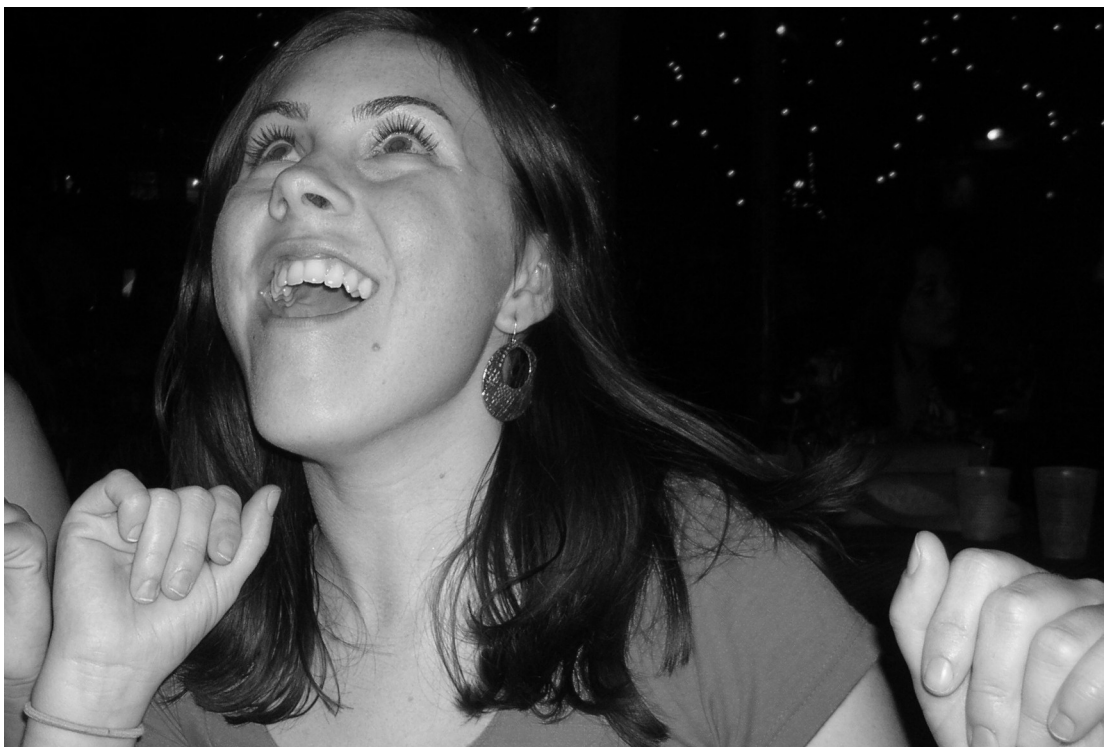
“I want to help kids realize that they can do math and they do not have to be a brain to do it,” she said.

Janet Kelly, associate professor of education at TCU, said John has used her creativity to tackle semester-long projects.

“She’s an overachiever who performed extremely well in all situations: teaching, writing and creating curriculum. She has many strengths,” Kelly said. “She has a very strong work ethic and she follows through on everything.”

She was offered a teaching job at R.L. Paschal High School in October after spending a semester student-teaching there, said Linda Antinone, math and AP physics teacher at Paschal.

John will start teaching Honors Algebra I January.



Lauren John, a senior math major, dances with friends at a restaurant in downtown Fort Worth.

Courtesy of LAUREN JOHN



Ellen Williams



Ellen,

We are so very proud of you, words can’t express. Now, go forward and finish carrying out your dreams you’ve had since you were ten years old! We Love You Very Much!

Mom, Dad, Sarah, and Price

Sara Kercho






Congratulations! I am so proud of you and all you have accomplished. You have grown into a wonderful young woman. You have had a great college experience including being a Showgirl, a Showgirl Co-Captain, studying in Spain and being inducted into Sigma Delta Pi.

Love with all my heart,

Mom

Jennifer Brynne West



What a beautiful young lady
you’ve always been inside
and out! And now, you are about to be a
Graduate once again! Congratulations on a job well
done throughout your journey at TCU.
We love you very much and are excited for
you about all of the possibilities and successes
that lie ahead!

Your proud family,
Mom, Dad and JJ

GRADUATION

Student says hard times helped her discover passion

By Mischa Ashcroft
Staff Reporter

Karen Daleiden will graduate this December with a geography major and a history minor and plans to continue her education in graduate school. But had you talked to her just three years ago, she said you would've found a woman with a notice of suspension from the School of Education because of her low GPA. So what happened to turn her college experience around?

In 2003, Daleiden attended Blinn College in Brenham but always dreamed of coming to TCU. She transferred to TCU in 2005 with her sights on an education major and a history minor so that she might teach history. In Daleiden's first semester at TCU, she completely filled her academic plate with classes and

“Karen went from taking one geography course to wanting to take every geography course ever taught on the face of our planet. She is extremely enthusiastic about geography.”

Jeffrey Roet
geography professor

extracurricular activities, including concert and marching band. However, at the end of her second semester, she said she had a 1.9 GPA with an incomplete on her transcript.

“School has been challenging as I've always had problems with my writing because I have narco-

lepsy, attention deficit disorder and general anxiety disorder,” Daleiden said.

“My general anxiety disorder makes me very anxious, and because of that I put things off to the last minute, and it gets to a point where the problem compounds and the anxiety grows and I have even less time then before,” Daleiden said.

Daleiden said her ADD kept her from focusing on school work, and her narcolepsy kept her constantly sleepy.

“I'd miss morning classes because I couldn't even hear my alarm clocks,” Daleiden said.

Daleiden lived off campus at the time and she said that added to her trouble.

“Because I lived off campus it was tough to get out the door and find a parking spot and get to class on time,” Daleiden said.

That same semester Daleiden received a letter from the education department placing her on academic probation, and if she didn't get her GPA up she would be suspended from TCU.

Daleiden finished her incomplete course and brought her GPA to a 2.0, but after talking with Mary Patton, the dean of the School of Education, she decided a major in education was not working for her and switched her major to history and her minor to geography.

Changing her major to geography turned out to be one of the most important decisions of her academic career.

“Karen went from taking one geography course to wanting to take every geography course ever taught on the face of our planet. She is extremely enthusiastic about geography,” said Jeffrey Roet, one of Daleiden's geography professors.

Daleiden said her father is a geographer and the subject comes to her naturally.

“Once you realize you're a ge-



Karen Daleiden, a senior geography major, poses for a picture outside of the Summer Palace in Beijing in June 2007. She was there with the Houston Symphonic Band on a ten day tour.

ographer, it's how you identify yourself,” Daleiden said.

When Daleiden reflects on her time at TCU, she says she's glad everything happened exactly when it did.

“I've always had to have something in my life push me to my next point,” Daleiden said. “Hitting rock

bottom with the notice of suspension was exactly what I needed to get me where I am now.”

Roet said students like Daleiden are part of the reason why he teaches.

“Students that go from marginal to top notch because they finally realize what want they want to


study and then find the motivation to succeed are part of why professors want to teach,” Roet said. “In Karen's case, geography provided a wonderful motivation to become an excellent student. The same thing happened to me, too.”

Daleiden said after she was put on academic probation, she re-


evaluated what she wanted to do.

“I lightened my course load, I talked with my professors and let them know what was going on in my life, I got help from campus life and I told myself ‘I'm going to graduate from TCU,’” Daleiden said.

And that is exactly what Karen is going to do.



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Dean Faulk



Dean -

Yeah! You're graduating!

Love 'ya like a rock,
Mom and Dad

Dana Michelle Dotson




Our Dear Daughter,

Congratulations for reaching this milestone! God bless your next challenge. You're a special young lady.

Love,
Dad & Mom

Sally Crawford



Sally,

You have given us such joy as we have watched you grow through the years. We are proud of you, the exceptional young woman you have become, and your academic achievements. Congratulations on graduation and your acceptance into the TCU graduate School of Business.

We love you,
Dad and Kellye



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Pharmacy schools have prescription for employment blues

By Bobby Caina Calvan
McClatchy Newspapers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The enticement was hard to refuse: a signing bonus of \$30,000. The wad of cash would help with student loans, so who could turn down the extra cash — on top of a nearly \$130,000 annual salary?

So, straight out of pharmacy school in Chapel Hill, N.C., R.J. Kulyk crossed the country for a job at a Walgreens in Redding, Calif. “It was a no-brainer,” Kulyk recalled.

Pharmacists remain in short supply across the country, particularly in rural areas. Competition among retail outlets and health care facilities is fierce, and the pay — salaries typically start around \$120,000 — is high. To lure pharmacists, retailers are dangling incentives of all kind. For a while, one even put recruits behind the wheel of a BMW.

“You felt safe while in pharmacy school, that you could pretty much decide where you wanted to go,” said Kulyk, 32. “You could live anywhere in the country.”

Behind the shortage is an aging population in need of skilled advice and an increasing demand for pharmaceuticals that is only expected to accelerate in the years to come. Job growth — and competition — is also being driven by the expansion of retail giants such as Walgreens, Rite Aid and CVS.

And though new pharmacy schools aimed at churning out more highly trained professionals have popped up across the country, demand still outstrips diplomas.

“The challenge is that the shortage will likely continue due to many factors. One factor is the aging populations of our communities,” said Phillip Oppenheimer, dean of the Thomas J. Long School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences at the University of the Pacific in Stockton. “The elderly uses a lot more medication per capita.”

In Kaiser Permanente’s Northern California region, 8 percent of its pharmacist jobs are vacant, said Frank Hurtarte, the director

of recruitment services for Kaiser facilities from the Bay Area to the foothills. Kaiser has 154 pharmacies in the region and filled 24.6 million prescriptions last year.

To get noticed by potential employees, Kaiser Permanente advertises in journals, gives referral bonuses and offers signing bonuses of as much as \$20,000, Hurtarte said.

Libby Olson received her pharmacy degree from the University of the Pacific in May and knows she is in demand.

“That’s why I went into the profession,” said Olson, who left a career as a training specialist in biotechnology to enter pharmacy school.

She sought a job in a hospital that would offer her closer interaction among patients, nurses and doctors. She started work at Sutter Memorial last spring.

“There were lots of companies offering incentives at the time; some of them offer large sign-on bonuses,” mainly retail pharmacies, she said.

Sutter offered Olson several thousand dollars as a signing bonus, but she declined to say exactly how much. She negotiated her hours so she could work half time to spend more time with her two children.

“They did offer to be more flex-

“There were lots of companies offering incentives at the time; some of them offer large sign-on bonuses.”

Libby Olson
University of the Pacific graduate

ible with me,” she said.

While the struggling economy has caused drug sales to dip — some people are delaying doctor visits or scrimping on medication — experts say the long-term demand for pharmacists will continue.

New pharmacy schools have

opened in response. The United States now has 106, according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

“There are a ton of new schools out there,” said Katherine Knapp, dean of the pharmacy program at Touro University in Vallejo, Calif.

Just seven years ago, the U.S. pharmacy graduates numbered 29 for every million people. Last year, the number rose to 33 graduates per million, according to Knapp and others. Next spring, Touro is scheduled to grant degrees to 62 pharmacy students, its first class of graduates.

Enrollment at pharmacy schools has risen for seven straight years. In fall 2007, 3,956 full-time students were enrolled nationwide — barely enough to fill the 3,904 jobs vacant in January 2007 at retail pharmacies, according to the National Association of Chain Drug Stores.

Admission is highly competitive, requiring a high score on the Pharmacy College Admission Test and courses that emphasize science and math.

To earn a doctor of pharmacy degree, students must undergo at least two years of undergraduate college course work followed by four academic years of professional study, according to the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy’s Web site.

“With a tremendous shortage of pharmacists, there are thousands of students trying to get in,” said David Hawkins, dean of California Northstate College of Pharmacy in Rancho Cordova, which opened in August.

Relying mostly on word of mouth, visits to area colleges and traffic to its recruitment Web site, Northstate received 350 applications for its inaugural class of 89 students.

“When people graduate from pharmacy schools, they tend to want to stick around where they graduated,” said Hawkins. “Hospitals in our area tell us they’re delighted we’re here. We’re here to generate some employees for them.”



HECTOR AMEZCUA / Sacramento Bee via MCT
Libby Olson, left, a pharmacist at Sutter Health, reviews a prescription Oct. 30 as one of her co-workers, Andrea Erizee, sorts through labels.

Morgan Pennington



Morgan,
You had star quality even when you were two. You are forever with something to say and always something to do. We are so proud of the path you’ve chosen, knowing you’ve developed the knowledge and moral attitude to make your dreams come true.

Love,
Mom, Mr. Frank, Dad & Ryan



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Amanda Rose Turton



Mandi,
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-Dr. Seuss

Love,
Mom, Dad, Daniel, Chris & Sophie

GRADUATION

Be flexible, open in college



My junior year at TCU, the TV series “Heroes” premiered. In the beginning, before the self-indulgence and convolutions, it was a pretty darn good show.

The “hero” who I immediately fell in love with, like many other of the show’s viewers, was the appropriately-named Hiro, a Japanese office drone who discovered he had the power to teleport through space and time just by squinting his eyes.

Unlike a lot of the other characters, who complained about what a horrible burden having awesome superpowers was, Hiro relished his teleporting abilities. And who wouldn’t?

I know I certainly could have used the power to squint my eyes and go back in time to fix a mistake is a power that would have come in handy many times during my time at TCU.

I could have done better on that Spanish exam I totally blew, not screw up my resident assistant

interview and convinced myself to change my major sooner so I wouldn’t have to take an extra semester, as well as doing summer school.

Then there are the wonderful moments I could experience all over again, like the night of my dormitory’s karaoke competition or when I went down to College Station with my friends to the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association student conference.

But real life doesn’t offer do-overs any more than it offers people who can fly and mysterious islands with smoke monsters.

So, since I can’t have a do-over, the next best thing I can think of is passing along a few things I learned during my four-and-a-half years of college, all but one of those years spent at TCU.

Go with the flow: When I entered TCU, I wanted to be a second-grade teacher. After one semester in the education program, I knew the last thing I ever wanted to do was be a teacher. And yet, 11 days after graduation, I’m off to California to teach in an after school program.

Never tell yourself you’ll never be caught dead doing something; that only seems to increase your chances.

Don’t think you need to have

the same measuring stick of success in life as others: Some of my married friends met and got married in college. As for me, I still haven’t met my guy yet (or I have and I’m just my usual clueless self.) This used to make me feel like a failure as a human being; now I just realize that God had a different track for their lives then he does for me. That doesn’t mean mine is better or worse, it just means it’s different.

Your personal measuring stick is the only one you need; ignore the rest.

Don’t procrastinate: Ever. When you have a 10-page paper due in a week, just sit your butt on the computer chair and write it right then, even if you don’t have any idea what to write.

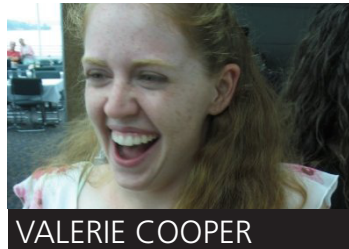
Make friends with your professors: You don’t have to be best buds, but establish some rapport with them. If you’re struggling in a class, tell them. I’ve had a few tell me they would have had no idea someone was having such a hard time in their class if they hadn’t told them.

Try to branch out in as many different ways as possible: I had been home-schooled since fifth grade, so college was in many ways my first introduction to the rest of the world. Don’t just hang around in circles of people who you think like you, and try as many new things as you can. College isn’t just education for a future job, it’s education for the rest of your life.

Enjoy it while you can: I once talked to a recent college graduate who remarked that orientation prepares you for everything except how to say goodbye when it’s all over. They say college is the best four years of your life, and it’s absolutely true. Relish every single moment of it.

Valerie Hannon is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Allen.

Organization is college key



I never had any intention of graduating early.

In fact, I did everything in my power to make sure it didn’t happen.

I came to TCU still on hyperdrive from high school, and I brought an abundance of AP and transfer credits from a community college, and added to that a 12-credit Spanish class and multiple double-dipped core classes. As TCU is on a flat rate, I wasn’t about to pay for classes I wasn’t taking, so I also crammed my semester with as many as I could without having to pay for more.

After academic advising my first semester, I panicked about the prospect of graduating early. So I added another major. Whew. I was safe.

Outside the classroom was much the same. In high school, my schedule was dominated by extracurriculars — band, theatre, newspaper, Student Council, PALs, FFA — you name it, I tried to do it. I was as determined to make the most of college, the supposed best four years of one’s life, in a similar fashion. Bring on the Honors Program, band, a sorority, resident assistant and an internship, to name a few.

It was ridiculously stressful at times, and I spent many nights in a dorm study room with Starbucks until I was forced to leave for my first class in the morning. My weekends were similarly at the mercy of my extracurriculars. And I loved every minute of it. Staying busy really isn’t that difficult; it’s just all I knew how to do.

But it wasn’t enough. During junior year I again went into a panic when my academic adviser reviewed my schedule: I could graduate the following May, a year early.

I knew I didn’t want that, but I also knew I couldn’t justify staying at TCU two more semesters just to satiate my love for college, especially not when it came down to my bank account.

But the freedom this idea brought me was endless: I could take only 15 hours in the spring, my one remaining required

course in the fall and then kick back and enjoy my final semester and maybe toss in a few pass/fail fluff classes. Life would be beautiful.

Of course, it didn’t happen that way.

After some soul-searching I dropped the idea of kicking back and declared a minor. This semester, 12 of my 18 hours are in a language I barely understand and haven’t dealt with in three years.

Although I attempted to narrow my extracurricular activities to compensate, I even negated that by taking on more hours at my internship.

And now, two weeks before I

“And even if it does take you a little longer to get through, why worry? Nobody said the best four years of your life couldn’t last a decade.”

cross that stage to the 40-hour work week “real world,” all I can ask myself is that age-old question: Why?

I’m watching my friends plan schedules for next semester, watching my roommates decide who’s going to take over my room, all while I can barely find time to search for a job because I still have my senior Honors project and essays in foreign languages hanging over my head.

What if I had taken my time, and hadn’t been so determined to be busy purely for the sake of being busy?

I won’t deny that I’m satisfied with my academic success, have memories I wouldn’t trade for tuition money and my parents are more than thrilled that I’m qualified for a decent job after only three-and-a-half years, but at what expense?

What if I hadn’t spent at least 18 hours a week in a classroom each semester? If I hadn’t been so stressed and sleep-deprived that I snapped at one of my very best friends that time? Who else could I have gotten to know if I

hadn’t been half-asleep during my 8 a.m. classes? What if I could’ve gone to Taco Tuesdays with my group more, instead of sitting through another night class that I could’ve saved for another semester during the day?

In short, was all that stress really necessary?

Especially when I never wanted to graduate early in the first place?

My agonizing over these questions led me to two conclusions I wish I had had before coming to TCU.

First: plan.

Look at your schedule. Do the math. Know what you need to take and when. Once you’ve determined what you need, maybe toss in some racquetball or a gourmet cooking class.

Second is the same advice you’ve heard your whole life and probably will continue to receive until you die: savor.

College students in general are addicted to being busy, and everyone wants to let you know it — largely, I figure, in search of both admiration and pity. If instead of simply settling for “Sorry, I’m busy,” we admitted, “I can’t make this a priority right now,” we might start to reconsider those priorities.

You can learn more from stopping and chatting with the guy you think has taken up permanent residence in the second floor lobby than in copying that psychology research off Wikipedia that’s due tomorrow just to get the grade. It’s possible to actually enjoy a class — to go with the intention of learning something, not just to get an assignment you’ll dedicate only the bare minimum of time required to. You don’t have to smell them, but at least notice the tulips that magically appear on campus for that week in spring. When you don’t fill your schedule with “required” engagements, you can pick and choose more things you enjoy doing — checking out that play, playing a game with roommates, just sitting in Market Square for a while and seeing who you know walks in the door.

And even if it does take you a little longer to get through, why worry? Nobody said the best four years of your life couldn’t last a decade.

Valerie Cooper is a senior news-editorial and English major from Azle.

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Luke Walker

Luke,

Congratulations on becoming a TCU graduate! You always fill our hearts with joy and pride as you navigate your life journey step by step and goal to goal. This valuable milestone marks the beginning of a wonderful future. May God continue to bless you abundantly!

Love, Mom & Dad

Live, love, learn; Experience the best college has to offer



When I was asked to think back on my time here at TCU and the roller coaster of studying, partying, eating, meeting new people, bad decisions, new friends, losing friends, growing, changing, massive student loans, moving, ramen noodles, outrageous prices at the Main, freshman 15, dorm life, psychotic roommates, relationships and Fuzzy's tacos, I must admit, I was a tad overwhelmed.

But as I write this column, I realize the experiences I had here, good and bad, I would not trade for the world. Whether it was cursing openly at a works cited page and determining the difference between MLA and APA format (who cares?!) or watching an unknown person in a full-body Scooby Doo costume complete an impressive keg stand, I cherish every single minute.

I realize now how easy it is to take these seemingly everyday activities for granted. Because a somewhat carefree environment is available for most of us, we tend not to realize how rare these experiences are.

With graduation imminent, I now understand how truly lucky I am to be here. When else will I watch a dear friend belly flop into a semi frozen Frog Foun-



tain with hilarious and painful consequences? Where else will I witness someone pulling the fire alarm in Milton Daniel, and then running around the halls yelling "I'm on fire! I'm on fire!"? Nowhere.

Don't waste your precious time wallowing over some woman who broke up with you or some guy who won't stop hitting on all your sorority sisters. Move on, get out there and live.

Along with having fun and exploring your freedom, stop and appreciate our education. Most of our teachers and men-

tors, 97.76 percent to be exact, genuinely care about our success (the other 2.24 percent you know who you are). And they deserve much more than a simple thank you. I owe my graduation to so many different people, and I could not have done it on my own. I will be leaving TCU with a highly-regarded degree, a positive outlook on life and about \$1.75 in my pocket. Give 'em hell, TCU.

Ross Johnson is a senior advertising/public relations major from The Woodlands.

Frog football on the rise, will be missed by senior



Freshmen, I envy you. As a true TCU football fan, I have been extremely proud to watch the Horned Frogs dominate the opposing competition this season. TCU has been the only college football team I have ever supported, and the future is brighter than ever before. While TCU has won at least 10 games in five out of the last seven seasons, don't take this level of excellence for granted. At 10-2, the team was one fourth down stop away from a potential berth in the Sugar Bowl.

But with the disappointment of a missed opportunity, you have to look at the accomplishments of this senior class. From 2005 to 2008, Jason Phillips, Robert Henson, Shae Reagan, Blake Schlueter and others helped TCU win 40 games in four seasons. A feat only matched one other time, from 1932-35. That '35 team won the national championship.

This year's seniors won't be playing in the national championship game or even a BCS

bowl. But they have elevated TCU football to new heights, and their greatness has paved the way for future Frogs to continue the march toward the goal of a national championship.

I have had the privilege of watching five seasons of Frog football at Amon G. Carter Stadium. When I graduate Dec. 20, I will miss weekly tailgates and screaming until I can't talk, with the yelling directed mostly at the opposing players.

While the product on the field now is one of the best in the country, that was not the case my freshman year in 2004. In the last game of the season that year, the Horned Frogs lost to Tulane, 35-31 at home, which put the team's record at 5-6 and disqualified them from bowl consideration.

The next season, however, things changed for the better. In the first game of the season, TCU shocked star running back Adrian Peterson and the Sooners in Norman, 17-10. Peterson only gained 63 yards on 22 carries, harassed by a swarming Frogs' defense. That will always be one of my favorite sports memories of my time here.

The team finished 12-1 that season, including a 27-24 victory over Iowa State in the Houston Bowl.

They followed that up with an 11-2 campaign in 2006.

While last season might have been considered a down year, the team won eight games and won another bowl game at Reliant Stadium in Houston. There are several schools in Texas and around the United States that would love for a down year to be that good.

But now as I prepare to leave college behind, I vow to never turn my back on the Frogs. Never will I ever turn my allegiance to the evil empires in Austin and Norman, Okla. I have made Fort Worth my home and in a state where football is king, the Horned Frogs are slowly but surely rising to power.

The 2009 TCU recruiting class already has 15 verbal commitments from high school players. Four of those players are four-star recruits and may form the backbone of the best class in the history of the university. But that will have to be proven on the field. They have big shoes to fill, but with the athletic department putting them in a position to succeed with brand-new facilities and great strength and conditioning programs, I expect to come back as an alumni and see a team further evolve into a national power.

Reese Gordon is senior broadcast journalism major from Longview.

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Lauren John

Lauren, Congratulations! Hope you can take some time to put your feet up. We are so proud of you.
Love,
Dad, Mom, & Melissa

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Mitchell Lane Moss

Mitchell, Congratulations! Your journey at TCU has been filled with friends, successes, and challenges. Along the way, you tenaciously held fast to your goals and are now ready to embark on a new endeavor. We are extremely proud of you and your accomplishments. We love you!
Mom & Dad

Ben Warner

Dear Jammer, Time has gone so swiftly and you are now a young man. We are very proud of all your accomplishments and wish all the best for you.
Love,
Mom & Dad

Ashley Anne Griffith

Dear Ashley, Congratulations! We are very proud of you. Since the day you were born, you have brought us enormous happiness. As you begin the next chapter in your life we wish you every success and God's richest blessings.
Love,
Mom and Dad

Lauren Goodall

WAY TO GO BOO-BOO!
Love,
Mom, Dad, & Hunter

GRADUATION

In difficult economy, college graduates struggle to pay debts

By Nick Perry
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE — For Lora Ladd, the dream went like this: Get a great education in graphic design. Land a \$40,000-a-year job. Pay off those student loans. Save some money and start a business. It all seemed within her grasp. After all, when Ladd researched Brooks College in Long Beach, Calif., the institution promised that almost all of its graduates found good jobs with great wages. Lenders were only too willing to write her loans.

But nothing would turn out as planned.

Ladd, 22, found out the hard way just how much of a burden student loans can become. She is part of a growing number of Americans expected to default on their loans. The problem remains hidden behind rosy official statistics, but is noted in a U.S. Department of Education audit, which predicts about a quarter of freshmen and sophomores who take out loans will default during their lifetime.

The problem often begins with young students like Ladd who make far-reaching decisions about debt at a time in their lives when they've never needed to be financially responsible. The seemingly sure bet that higher education will pay off can be upended by any number of factors: broken marriages, illnesses, lost jobs, substandard schools and

unrealized dreams.

Not helping the situation are the aggressive marketing tactics of some loan companies. Even now, in the midst of a financial crisis that has thrown the future of the student-loan industry into doubt, companies continue to make it sound so easy: Borrow up to \$250,000 lifetime, with approval given in as little as one minute, says one Web site, Think Student Loans.

And the federal government has made student loans harder to get rid of than almost any other type of personal debt.

Unlike credit cards, car loans or even mortgages, student loans are not routinely discharged in bankruptcy. Even some private loan companies argue the rule, imposed to stop students from racking up huge debts and then dodging them, is too stringent.

By the time Lora Ladd graduated with an associate degree in 2005, Brooks College, a for-profit, was on probation for its run-down buildings and poor academic standards, and for misrepresenting job-placement rates. The school has since announced plans to close.

Ladd's first "career" job turned out to be a \$10-an-hour customer-service gig at a printing company. She'd borrowed \$20,000 in private student loans from Sallie Mae — the nation's largest private student lender — but wasn't able to make payments and quickly went into de-



JOHN LOK / Seattle Times via MCT
Alan Collinge, left, founder of studentloanjustice.org, and Lora Ladd talk outside of the Federal Building Sept. 10 in downtown Seattle. For students graduating now, large loan repayments are adding a significant financial burden at a time when they also face rising health-care costs, expensive housing options and a difficult employment market.

fault. Some days, she says, creditors would call 20 times.

Documents show the principal on Ladd's Sallie Mae loan has increased from \$20,000 to \$35,000 because of accrued interest and penalties. The interest rate is now 14.875 percent; her monthly payments \$487. Add the federal loans she took out in her father's name but which she pays down, and her total debt now stands at more than \$52,000 — \$12,000 more than she

borrowed — with monthly payments of nearly \$700.

"It's made me feel hopeless at certain points," said Ladd, who said the stress has led to tears and contributed to bouts of depression. "I work and I work and I work, and all I have to show for it is paying this company money which doesn't go toward anything."

Three years after graduating, Ladd, of Portland, Ore., says she is getting back on her feet. She has realized one dream by starting her own business, a personal-assistant and maid service. For Ladd, one of the attractions of self-employment is that loan companies can't easily garnish her wages. She plans to pay back her loans in full.

Alan Collinge has heard dozens of stories like Ladd's. Three years ago, he launched Student-LoanJustice.org from his Tacoma-area apartment. On the site, he posted his own story: how he graduated from the University of Southern California with three degrees in aerospace engineering and \$38,000 in loans; how he struggled to find jobs in the industry; and how his debt ballooned to \$118,000 through what he views as exorbitant penalties and fees.

Collinge, 38, has posted hundreds of similar testimonials and appears to have tapped a deep reservoir of anger. He's appeared in news reports across the country, includ-

ing a segment on "60 Minutes," and now has a book contract.

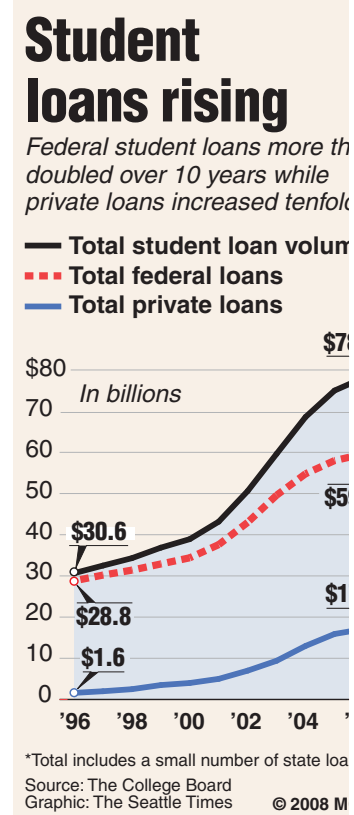
"The stories I got in just floored me," Collinge said. "There were people who left the country to avoid their loans, people whose family members committed suicide. The shackles that this has put over so many people across the country is just shocking."

But Tom Joyce, a spokesman for Sallie Mae, derides Collinge's tactics — which have included calling loan-company executives at their homes in the middle of the night.

Joyce says the topic of student-loan debt is important but that Collinge, with his three degrees from a top university, has had many opportunities in life.

"There are real hardship issues. There are people who have health issues and so on, and they need relief and they need help," Joyce said. "It's right for the government and for others to be concerned and to help them work through it. Unfortunately, Alan is the wrong poster child for that movement."

Collinge, for his part, said he regrets the late-night calls, which were made several years ago when he was angry about his situation. More recently, he has set up a political action committee and is trying to persuade lawmakers to amend bankruptcy laws and curb what he views as usury in the industry.



Much controversy remains over just how many students will end up defaulting. U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings proclaimed in a news release last month that default rates are "historically low," with just 5.2 percent of recent graduates in trouble. "Federal student aid remains one of the best options for financing education," she concluded.

But a very different picture emerges from the Department of Education's own risk model.

The proportion of freshmen and sophomores at four-year colleges who will default on federal loans over their lifetime is estimated at between 19 and 31 percent, depending on the type of loan and when it was written, the department's Office of Inspector General wrote in a 2003 audit.

Outside of four-year colleges, the figures get even worse: At community colleges, between 30 percent and 42 percent of students are expected to default on their loans; and at for-profit schools, between 38 percent and 51 percent are expected to default, the audit notes.

The audit calculates lifetime risk — rather than the model used by Spellings, which looks at what happens to graduates two years out from college.

Kerry Elizabeth Crump




Kerry, almost from the time you could walk, you were dancing into everyone's lives. We love it --never give it up or change--- just keep on dancing.

We love you and are proud of your accomplishments and your work as Advertising Manager for the Skiff.

Love you, Dad and Mom

Mazie Chapman West



Mazie Chapman West

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sail. Explore. Dream. Discover."

-Mark Twain

Keep your heart focused on your Creator, allow Him to navigate your future, and NEVER, NEVER, NEVER give up!


I'm proud of you. I love you W.P.T.S!
Mom

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Karen Daleiden



Dearest Karen,

The pride we have for you can't be measured. We admire your unwavering dedication to this goal, your kind heart and cheerfulness. You have so much to look forward to and we know you'll make the most of it.

All our love,
Mom, Dad, Anne, Neil & Grandpa

Taking a worldwide view a good approach in college



Is four years still the standard to graduate? If so, then technically, you can consider me not average, which I guess is always good. I graduate in 15 days; I'll walk across the stage, get my diploma, shake some hands and be done with my four and a half years at TCU. And, on Dec. 22, I'll say goodbye for what will probably be a pretty long time.

When I came to TCU as a freshman in the fall of 2004, I had no idea what I wanted to do. I've switched my major twice and had several jobs with the university. I got sick and practically had to redo a semester, did summer study abroad in China and a marketing internship with an international integrated marketing communications agency. You could say I've touched a lot of bases, but something is still missing.

You can bet that I appreciate the value of my diploma, and it's only getting better as years go by. If I could do it all over again, maybe I'd make a few different choices — unfortunately, hindsight

sight prevails over foresight — but the choice I wouldn't change would be the choice to come to TCU. I've met some of the best friends with whom I've had some of the best times. I've learned some of the most priceless lessons from my teachers inside and outside of the classroom. Several of my teachers have made a significant difference in my life. My teachers have become the most indispensable resources in figuring out what I want to do with my career or agencies to which apply.

Now, after four and a half years, I still don't quite know what I want to do. I have an idea — marketing — but that's about as close as I am. I absolutely loved my internship and my sales job at the Skiff, but I'm still not sure. I think the next few years are going to be ones of trial and error to find my perfect fit. Not to mention that the job market is going to make it difficult for me to find a job that I'm happy with right now.

I don't even really know where I want to go after I graduate. I'm originally from St. Louis, but I think I want to try a new city out for a while. I'm thinking San Francisco, Chicago, New York or Jacksonville, Fla. Yeah, all over the place. How suiting.

One thing I do know is that I still have the "abroad itch."

Traveling to China instilled something in me. So what have I done? I've taken everything — poor economy, job market and my indecision — and made up my mind. I've been recently accepted to a marketing program in Singapore.

I'll leave for Singapore sometime in February and live with other people from who knows where. I'm scared just as much as I am excited. I'll leave behind my family, my niece and nephew, friends and my dog, Millie.

I plan on being in Singapore for about six months, and after I hope to travel to the surrounding cities, such as Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Bangkok, Thailand; Manila, the Philippines; and Sydney, Australia.

When I come back to the United States, I'm keeping my fingers crossed that the job market will be better, and that I'm ready to settle down and get a job. I don't know what or where it'll be, but I'm definitely excited to find out.

I'm just living by something Jack Johnson once said: "Don't let your dreams be dreams." That and the philosophical Jimmy Buffett, "If we couldn't laugh, we'd all go insane." I've done pretty well so far.

Advertising manager Kerry Crump is a senior advertising/public relations major from St. Louis.

In formative time, be yourself



When I sat down to write my senior column, I immediately thought I'd be writing a sentimental piece about how much I've learned at TCU and about how much I have changed. I imagined I would look back and laugh at myself as a wide-eyed freshman who sat down in the wrong classroom on the first day of school.

But I did that my sophomore and junior years, too. I'm still nervous about studying for finals, I still vow after every test that I will never procrastinate again and I still get lost in Sid Richardson.

make sure you don't lose yourself. I've seen my fair share of friends change and grow in college. Some have come home with piercing, tattoos, new hair colors, new eating habits and new boy-friends and girlfriends.

All of these things are to be expected, but in the process of all the change in reinvention, it's more important to hold tight to the values and foundation on which you stand.

As is expected, I've changed in college. I've expanded my horizons, broken the rules, stepped out of my comfort zone and taken on tasks I was under-qualified to perform.

Did college shape the person I will be? Yes. But did it change who I am? No.

So that's my parting advice. Through all of the change and the craziness that defines college, take what's truly important to you — the things that define who you really are — and hold onto them. Whether it is friends, family, religion or a self-pro-

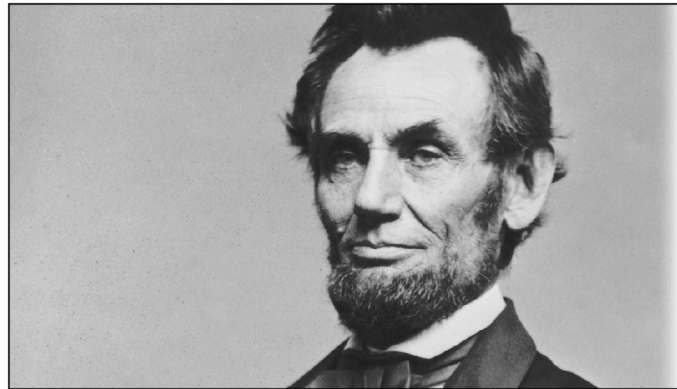
claimed moral code, cherish it and let it be your guide along this three-, four- or five-year journey.

I guarantee that the things you hold dear will be challenged. Your experiences, your professors and your friends will take those things and push them to the limits — they will beat them down, build them up, question them and make you defend them for all they are worth. But once it's all over, you will be stronger.

College is about change, but it doesn't necessarily have to be about changing who you are and what you believe.

Maybe my college experience wasn't the typical college experience. But it was my college experience and I emerged a stronger, more confident person who knows what is most important. And hey, who wants to be typical anyway?

Editor-in-chief Bailey Shiffler is a senior news-editorial journalism major from Georgetown.



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GRADUATION

Hot jobs: Demand, pay is high for right skills

By Eric Adler
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — It's often said someone makes money even in a bad economy. Cody Bass just didn't know how much.

"A hundred thousand dollars," the 22-year-old college senior said.

That's the annual salary that Bass — who is still a semester away from receiving his bachelor's degree from the Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla — is to be paid for his first job out of college.

That, he said, doesn't even include the \$7,500 he'll be given in moving expenses. Or the \$20,000 he's getting upfront as an early signing bonus. Or the \$25,000 "impact bonuses" he said he was told to expect for each of the first two years he is on the job.

Total package for his first year in his first real job: \$145,000-plus.

"I was shocked," Bass said. "We grew up very modest. When I was growing up, my dad probably didn't make much more than \$30,000 a year teaching in Oklahoma. I feel bad for everyone having such a hard time."

But such are the rewards of picking the right college major even in these shaky economic times.

For Bass, that is petroleum engineering, a job for which starting salaries in the expanding

business now average \$85,000 to \$95,000, with offers often coming a year or more before the end of college.

"It's phenomenal," said Rolla petroleum engineering professor Shari Dunn-Norman. "These are kids."

Yet Bass is hardly alone.

Whereas workers in some industries are being laid off by the thousands, in others — such as engineering, accounting, nursing, pharmacy and, as the cost of shipping by truck has risen, railroads — the watchword is "hired," not "fired," as new employees are being promised high-paying jobs sometimes more than a year before graduation.

Of course, many of the jobs have their perceived downsides, which range from long hours to boredom to weeks and, in some cases, months spent traveling. But the financial incentives can be great.

Accounting: Nationwide, college accounting programs are booming, filled to capacity, growing and taking on more faculty.

"As it turns out, accounting is rather resilient in good and bad times," said Steve Limberg, director of the master's of accounting program at the University of Texas, Austin, one of the premier programs in the nation. "In good times, people want to know how to manage their prosperity. In bad, they want to know how to manage their cost saving."

"As it turns out, accounting is rather resilient in good and bad times."

Steve Limberg

director of the master's of accounting program at the University of Texas, Austin

In 2002, financial scandals at companies that included Enron, Tyco, Adelphia and WorldCom were so bad that Congress passed the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to improve corporate and executive accountability. The call for new financial accountability created an equally large call for more accountants.

At schools including the University of Missouri, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, the job placement rates for accountants before graduation now range between 95 percent and 100 percent.

Some students, such as Kansas State fifth-year senior Jessalyn Dean, 23, are receiving full-time job offers as much as 18 months before graduation. First-year salaries frequently are \$45,000 and up.

"If I mention anything about how much I'm paid, I'm told to shut up," said Dean, speaking of her two older sisters, neither of whom chose accounting and neither of whom makes nearly as much as their younger sister.

Dean received a full-time offer two summers ago while on an internship at Grant Thornton, an international accounting firm with an office in Kansas City that has grown by more than 50 percent in the last four years. She doesn't begin until January.

Nursing: "You're going to get a job, a good job with almost guaranteed lifelong job security," said Karen Miller, senior vice chancellor and dean of the University of Kansas School of Nursing.

Starting salaries with a four-year nursing degree: About \$50,000. The reason is the aging population. The job situation is similar for the other allied health professions, including occupational or physical therapy. At University of Kansas, for example, enrollment at the school of nursing has risen by 50 percent in the last four years — from 474 nursing students in 2004 to 711 in September of this year.

"Our graduates have no problems getting work," Miller said.

"You're going to get a job, a good job with almost guaranteed lifelong job security."

Karen Miller

senior vice chancellor and dean of the University of Kansas School of Nursing

The case is similar nationwide.

Pharmacy: Robert Piepho, dean of the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Pharmacy, tells this story: He is at commencement two years ago. The parent of a graduate approaches him and says his daughter, before graduation, had received an offer of \$107,000 to

become a local pharmacist.

Then the company called back.

"They said they were going to increase her salary by \$5,000 more before she even set foot on site," Piepho said.

Becoming a pharmacist requires an advanced degree. But, again, the aging population has resulted in a nationwide shortage in pharmacists. That has caused first-time salaries to bulge well into the six figures.

"If you look at how the population is aging, the older-than-65 population," Piepho said, "the latest projections say that the United States will be 157,000 pharmacists short the year 2020."

Beyond offering high salaries, some companies, he said, are wooing young pharmacists with offers to pay off their student loans.

Railroads: Conductors, brakemen, electricians, signalmen, locomotive engineers, track workers: all are in high demand in the railroad industry, which in recent years has started booming again as gas prices have risen and the industry itself has experienced a number of retirements.

"This industry has come back in a big way," said Bill Vantuono, editor of RailwayAge magazine. Anyone with doubts just needs to look at the size and scale of freight trains now crossing the U.S., many of which are carrying double-stacked loads to keep up with demand.

Higher fuel costs, and decreased consumer spending, have cut into the growth of the business within the last year. But in the last four years, BNSF Railway alone brought on more than 15,000 new employees, and it plans to bring on 2,000 more this year.

Over the entire industry, the call is to hire some 40,000 new railroad employees over the next

six years, according to the Association of American Railroads.

"I would say that to get a job in the railroad industry, you're not just making a bet on the short-term, but on the long-term over the next 20 to 30 years," Vantuono said.

Getting a railroad job is not simple. It's dangerous work. As such, employers place a premium on steady, safety-conscious employees. Many apply. For the few chosen, the pay is good.

"We offer some of the best-paying jobs in the country," said BNSF spokesman Steve Forsberg. "The average railroad worker makes \$65,000 a year. That includes clerks to the locomotive engineer."

That's average.

"Conducting usually starts at about \$60,000 a year," said Scott Schafer, general director of the National Academy of Railroad Sciences, a school that trains railroad workers in six-week programs at Johnson County Community College. "A locomotive engineer could make over \$100,000 a year depending on his location or seniority."

Of course, even that's not petroleum engineer money.

"Right now there are so many oil companies, big and small, they're all looking for graduates," said Rolla professor Dunn-Norman, adding that the work is hardly easy.

Drilling, reservoir engineering, well-testing, production — petroleum engineering can take lots of forms. It's also bound to take graduates all over the world.

"Kids from Missouri, wherever, have to understand that they're probably not going to work in Missouri," she said. "You have to understand that from the get-go. It's going to be long hours. And it's going to be competitive and high-risk."

"But with high risk come great rewards."



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