

## Opinions

## Top 10 list a countdown to the post-GWU world

By Lauren Taylor  
Pilot editor in chief

I hope Pilot readership does not decline after the selfishness of this editorial, but I insist on using this venue for personal purposes, just this once and for a good cause.

In 10 days I'll be a graduate, which hasn't got me even the least bit nostalgic. But here is the Top 10 list of great things or people I've experienced at Gardner-Webb, one for each day I have before leaving it.

**Number 10:** the landscaping. That may sound shallow, but when I first got here, there was nary a flower dotting this campus's terrain.

Now thanks to the guys who put in toupee grass, this place looks like Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens.

**Number 9:** the business office. These people endure torment from students, but they do it with a smile. It would have saved me 10 miles of walking

had the office had been next to Financial Planning, but they dealt with me happily even when I was screaming at them.

Tom, especially, always told me in a polite way that I owed the school money.

**Number 8:** H.A.P.Y. dorm. It really isn't fair how much nicer it is than all the others. Living there was like having a New York penthouse compared to the slums of Decker and the Honors House, and I enjoyed every minute of it.

**Number 7:** Dr. Anthony Eastman. He made me work the hardest I ever have for a C. But when I got that grade, it was better than all my others put together.

Since then I've encouraged my peers to take a class with him, and everyone in my family is impressed with my knowledge of the Great Depression.

**Number 6:** summer school. It is school on crack, and I felt like I needed some just to get me through it. Even still, it is an

instantly gratifying experience that makes fall and spring semesters seem like slow motion. It's way cheaper than a full semester and an effective cure for procrastination.

**Number 5:** Dean Bruce Moore. I think there is only one person left on earth who hasn't got an e-mail address, and it's him. He has always been willing to help and listen to me.

When I needed money to stay here, he told me what to do. I appreciate that.

**Number 4:** the Writing Center. I have spent more than 400 hours of my life there reading papers. I developed a true love for writing in helping others improve their own skills.

**Number 3:** the English department. No greater incubator for progressive thought exists outside of its walls. The professors and fellow students challenged me to think in ways that once appalled me.

My heart romped through feminist literature and danced

with Shakespeare. The research paper became a friend.

**Number 2:** the Communication Studies department. It's not just because I am a major that this is in the list. It really is the best place ever.

The hardwood floors and the way the building smells in the morning, Mac computers and hardened, cynical people—it's the perfect place to become a jaded individual prepared for a newsroom.

The professors are eccentric and very, very persnickety and never seem to mind showing you exactly what you did wrong.

It was here that the most opportunities were afforded to me, including the chance to see President-Elect Barack Obama's inauguration. My only regret is that I'll be missing that; graduates can't go.

**Number 1:** Dr. A. Frank Bonner. He knows my name and says hello to me when I see him. When we found mold in the

dorm, he came over personally with Residence Life and promised us that it would be fixed. And it was.

Sometimes, he even gets on stage with his wife, all dressed up, and lets people laugh at him at the faculty variety show.

It's great to have a president who doesn't take himself too seriously to connect with students. I've even had lunch with him in the caf and heard about his days as an English professor.

This is the most impressive thing, I think, that GWU has offered me.

Of course, there are great things that didn't make it into the Top 10.

I could fill up a whole edition with memories and the praises of individuals who have changed my life here.

As critical as I have often been of it, I credit the school with teaching me that to criticize something is often the most sincere way of showing your love for it.

## Democracy requires educated citizens; college cuts endanger it

The Lariat  
Baylor University/UWIRE

The trickling-down effect of the economic crisis will be felt by thousands of high school students dreaming of a college degree.

California State University, the nation's largest university system, with 23 campuses across the state, will scale back on its enrollment in an effort to decrease its student body by at least 10,000.

The current student body is at approximately 450,000.

To accomplish this task, the university will increase its admission standards and will stop accepting applicants at a much earlier date than it has in the past.

CSU is just another casualty in America's current financial predicament. The system, which receives 77 percent of its operating budget from the state, is facing the burdens of shrinking tax revenues in addition to a \$66 million cut announced by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger last month.

These are tough times, and it's understandable that states would curtail spending in order to save

money, but reducing funds for education is a step in the wrong direction. State budget cuts to public colleges and universities may lead other institutions of higher learning to also cap their enrollment, which would be detrimental to our society.

Americans may live in a society governed by democratic institutions, but it's the values and practices under which our country was established that enables us to continue to thrive under democracy.

Certain values that have transcended into rights include opportunities for education. We have recognized the pertinence of an educated citizenry in maintaining the livelihood of a democratic society.

University and college budget cuts and enrollment caps are a direct contradiction of our national values, and the long-term ripple effects of such actions could jeopardize the stability of our democracy.

State governments need to recognize the importance of education and look beyond the present situation toward the implications that these cuts can

have on the future. Instead of curtailing money that would go to support education, state government need to find other ways to make ends meet.

The enrollment cap that will take shape within CSU comes amid the school's increasing number of first-year applications, as represented in the 20 percent increase of this fall, according to a Time magazine article from last week.

Some have argued that by capping enrollment universities and colleges will be able to ensure the quality of education for current students and future students.

While it's true that an enrollment cap can prevent classrooms from filling up beyond accommodation and increase the likelihood that students will be able to register for classes they need or want, a problem still remains. Just because the state is

able to save money immediately by reducing university education funds doesn't mean that they won't pay for it later.

The increasing number of college applicants facing the decreasing budgets of universities and colleges will span across the nation as the population of 18-year-olds peaks in 2009. According to a January article in the New York Times, 3.2 million high school seniors are expected to graduate in 2009, making this the largest graduating class in the nation's history.

For these students turned away from CSU and potentially other universities around the nation, what are they to do?

Community college seems like the next best step, but according to a survey conducted by the American Association of Community Colleges in July, students may run into the same problems, as

community-college directors in 16 states are reporting that they can't meet the current demand.

What other options are left if neither four-year state schools nor two-year community colleges has the resources to accommodate the demand?

Students could apply for entrance into private universities, but even private schools are feeling the heat of a crippling economy.

Harvard University and Boston University are calling for a hiring freeze, as their endowments dwindle. These schools may see a decline in enrollment if a big enough dent is taken from endowments that go toward merit and need-based scholarship.

The difficulties of funding an education when scholarships are decreased because of a contracting endowment and the approval ratings for student loans are declin-

ing will prevent students from registering.

Students would have to delay their college education. Some may even not go at all. What would essentially be created, depending on how fast the economy bounces back, could be a substantially large number of uneducated Americans.

They obviously won't be able to find jobs in today's market, especially when they're competing with recent graduates with university degrees.

Students who have spent over a decade of their lives pursuing a high school diploma in order to go on to college deserve an opportunity to further their education.

In fact, we would be doing our nation a disservice if we allowed qualified students to be turned away. To allow this is to declare that education is not a top priority in our society.

## Faulty economy puts pressure on graduating seniors

By Jillian Henderson  
The Lariat, Baylor U. / UWIRE

The economy. What's the big deal about it anyways? We're just students, it doesn't really matter to us anyways, right?

For those graduating in 2009, this is something we need to start worrying about now.

I talked to several professors in different departments to get an idea of what they thought the job market looked like for upcoming Baylor graduates.

Professor Rosland Kennerson-Baty, lecturer in the communication studies department, who also teaches an interviewing class, expressed a concern for the state of the economy and its effects on graduates.

"It depends on the profession, but right now the job market looks a little stalemated," Kennerson-Baty said.

She also said the main reasons college graduates can't get jobs in today's economy is because it's a personal and a social issue.

"Graduates are very brilliant but they don't have the knowledge to get their foot in the door," she said. "They need to give themselves the

opportunity to grow in their profession."

Professor of economics Kent Gilbreath shared Kennerson-Baty's concerns.

"The job market looks miserable for graduating seniors," Gilbreath said. "But it will vary for different majors. Teachers and other highly skilled occupations such as high-tech professionals are OK, but the rest of the market is seeing a general falling in demand for employment."

According to a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers featured in an October article of the Wall Street Journal online, employers plan to hire just 1.3 percent more graduates in 2009 than they hired in 2008.

This is not a big increase, because the same source said that just two months ago the survey indicated a 6.1 percent increase in hiring.

So what exactly does that mean about college graduates right now? I want to go into the television news-casting sector of the job market, but "I'm not sure whether a job will be there after I walk across the stage next December."

I may not know whether I have a

job or not after graduation, but what I do know is that I just spent over four years of my life busting my rear end trying to make the grades so I can get the job after graduation.

This is the goal I've been working toward for as long as I can remember. This is why I chose to go to a prestigious school such as Baylor University.

I was hoping that I would have a better chance of obtaining a job after graduating from a top-notch university.

What this means for you and I is that we're going to have to work twice as hard to get a job as those who have graduated before us.

This is not the news I was hoping for when I started this research into job placement for college graduates.

So now I need to answer the question I posed in the beginning: Why should we care about the economy, as students?

If you care about your future at all, you should care.

I'm hoping for a quick rebound of the economy because I don't want my money, hard work and education to go to waste, and I doubt anyone else at Baylor does either.

## Procrastinator offers tips to reduce stress during crunch time

By Alyssa Conner  
Daily Kent Stater/UWIRE

The last week of every semester is always the most stressful - students are finishing projects, writing papers and studying for finals.

Procrastination is my middle name. I love how I always save everything to the very last minute.

Sometimes I work better when I am under a lot of stress, while at other times I just want to scream and run away to Never Neverland where I

can be a kid forever.

I'm sure everyone is just as stressed out as I am, so I decided this week's column would help relieve some steam by venting and providing some tips on how I deal with the stress of finals.

The best advice a professor once gave me is to remember worrying gets nothing accomplished.

Relax and make a list of everything you need to get done, and then organize assignments out day by day so that it doesn't seem like you have a lot

to get done in one day.

I also suggest going to the student recreation and wellness center to work off some stress. It always helps to take breaks to give your brain a rest and clear your thoughts.

Even if it you just walk on the treadmill for 20 minutes or swim a few laps, I'm sure you will feel refreshed and energized. After working out, I highly recommend relaxing in the hot tub or treating yourself to a massage.

Don't freak out. You know you will get

everything done. Just be realistic, spread your work out and don't try to do too much in one day because that is when the gray hairs start growing.

Because I am probably the best procrastinator, I have realized there is so much more to life than worrying and stressing over a paper. Worrying gets nothing accomplished.

It is what you don't do that you should be more concerned about.

Just breathe and think: It is almost over.

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