Is a college degree really worth it? The question has been hotly debated for some time and some people remain convinced getting a degree is a waste of time. The proof of a degree’s value, however, is in the financial data.

Citing U.S. Labor Department data, NY Times columnist David Leonhardt noted, “Americans with four-year college degrees made 98% more an hour on average in 2013 than people without a degree.” Leonhardt adds that this rate is up from 89% in 2008, 85% in 1998, and 64% in the late 1980’s. In fact, over the last ten years, wages for college graduates rose to an average of $32.60 per hour, while wages for non-college graduates fell 5-percent on average to $16.50 per hour over the same period (New York Times, 5/27/14).

Choosing to get a college degree certainly means earning more money over a working lifetime, but it also amounts to being more employable and re-employable. And the world’s need for graduates is growing, not shrinking. Leonhardt notes, “As the economy becomes more technologically complex, the amount of education that people need will rise. At some point, 15 years or 17 years of education will make more sense as a universal goal.”

So, is a college degree really worth it? The data speak volumes about the value. My money is on the degree.
Associate Director’s Two-Cents

Ed Steele, Associate Director

Air Force Tuition Aid is changing, effective October 1, 2014, and the biggest change is that Air Force students must have their TA submitted no earlier than 45 days and no later than 7 days before the start of the term. This means that TA must be in the system no later than October 13 for classes in the 2014FA2 term which begins October 20, 2014.

Therefore, in order to ensure that you have the information needed for submitting your TA request on time, make sure you plan ahead and register early. Saint Leo University course schedules for all of our teaching locations are active about 16 weeks (2 terms) before the start of any given term. So even now, the schedules for FA2 and SP1 are available, with SP2 going active October 20. You can find these schedules on our website at www.saintleo.edu by clicking on the “Find it fast” tab in the upper right of the screen, and then going to the “course sched-

Mike’s Mic

This question was in a previous newsletter, but is still part of our FAQ’s. You can actually swipe your parking card over the pad to the left of the door to gain access to the hallway.

Dear Mike,
Where can I grab food before class?
Sincerely, hungry and in need of food

Dear, ‘Hungry and in need of food’,
Update!! Some new food options have opened up on Meridian. If you take elevator shaft, “C” down to the first floor and exit right, you will find two new restaurants. The Hideaway (sushi) and Maloney’s Irish Pub (great sandwiches, burgers, and Irish pub grub)!

Dear Mike,
What is the deadline to submit my application for graduation?
Sincerely, Eager to have my life back

Dear, ‘Eager to have my life back’,
The deadline to submit your application for graduation is February 28th. Please let us know if you have any other questions!
Skaer-tactics

Need tutoring in almost any subject? There is help!

Most of our students were uploaded into our online appointment book, “TutorTrac”. Students may go to tutoring.saintleo.edu and log in using their user name (same as the portal name: first-name.lastname) and the password, which is saintleo (all one word, lowercase).

Once logged in, students use the “Search Availability” tab on the left side of their screen to complete answers to a series of dropdown boxes for Center (Online) and Course (the class for which they wish to have tutoring). Upon hitting the “Search” button, tutoring availability appears as green rectangles of time. Clicking on the time of their choice, students complete the appointment pop-up box and save to schedule the appointment, which will then appear on the student’s Tutor Trac main menu page. There are also instructions for using Tutor Trac on our LRC webpage: www.saintleo.edu/learning-resource-center/online-tutoring.aspx

“Students who have difficulty logging into Tutor Trac or booking appointments can contact shannon.greer@saintleo.edu.”

Jimmy’s Admissions

Hello to all Saint Leo University Students,

The Tampa Education center is growing, and we are adding new undergraduate and graduate programs. We are currently offering Bachelor’s of Accounting and anticipate the start of our Bachelor of Social Work program in fall of 2015. Please call us at 813-226-2773 for more information about the programs mentioned above or other undergraduate programs. We are also looking forward to our new Masters of Accounting (MAcc) program beginning on March 2, 2015 at the Tampa Education Center. We are very excited about this new program and look forward to working with students interested in this new program.

Master of Accounting applicants must meet the following requirements:
1. Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university.
2. Minimum 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale from a regionally accredited college or university.
3. Minimum GMAT score of 500. Students with a minimum combined GPA and GMAT score of 1,050 [(GPA x 200) + GMAT] will be considered.
4. Students with non-accounting undergraduate degrees will be required to take the appropriate undergraduate courses.

If you are interested in this program, please do not hesitate to call Jimmy Surin at 813-226-2773 or email at jimmy.surin@saintleo.edu. Also, if you would like to see more information about the programs please do not hesitate to click on the following link: http://www.saintleo.edu/admissions/graduate/master-of-accounting-(macc).aspx.
Celebrating 40 Years of Serving Those Who Serve

**Student Affairs**

Please be aware that we have now started a new procedure in pre-certifying VA students on the first day of week 6.

If you would like to keep your VA benefits going without any delay, please make sure to sign up for the next terms by the end of week 5.

When we pre-certify VA students, we let the VA know how many classes you are taking, but we cannot let them know tuition until after the add/drop period starting week 2. This can sometimes cause the VA to send out a letter saying that we did not inform them of tuition. Please disregard these letters. Tuition and fees will be reported to the VA on week two of classes. We do advise students to sign up for two terms at a time in order to keep VA benefits continuous.

Please note that the cut-off date for graduation applications for the 2015 May graduation ceremony will be February 28, 2015. If you plan on walking in the May ceremony, please make sure to get your graduation application from your academic advisor and submit it before February 28th.

**Faculty Spotlight**

See if you can guess who the person is in the photo!

He is a Saint Leo, Tampa area faculty member, attended University of South Florida, and most students have taken at least one of his classes.

**Financial Services**

For financial aid questions please contact us:
- Phone: (800) 240-7658 or (352) 588-7403
- Fax: (866) 708-7770
- E-mail: finaid@saintleo.edu

**Contact Information**

Kenneth Gonzalez—Area Director
kenneth.gonzalez@saintleo.edu 813-226-2775

Edward Steele—Associate Director of MacDill Office
edward.steele@saintleo.edu 813-840-0259 ext. 3226

Michael Raimondi—Assistant Director of Tampa Office
michael.raimondi@saintleo.edu 813-226-2779

Jimmy Surin—Graduate Admissions
jimmy.surin@saintleo.edu 813-226-2773

David Skaer—Academic Advisor
david.skaer@saintleo.edu 813-840-0259 ext. 3224

Tammy Tribble—Faculty Coordinator		
tammy.tribble@saintleo.edu 813-840-0259 ext. 3222

Brittany Jones—Staff Assistant/VA Cert Official
brittany.jones02@saintleo.edu 813-226-2777

Cassie Sherrill—Student Coordinator/VA Cert Official
cassandra.sherrill@saintleo.edu 813-840-0259 ext. 3221

Susan Murphy—Testing Administrator
susan.murphy02@saintleo.edu 813-840-0259 ext. 3225

**TRANSFERRING TO SAINT LEO UNIVERSITY**

A transfer student should add Saint Leo University’s federal school code (001526) to her/his college choice on the FAFSA. Go to:

[www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)

and click on "Add or Delete School Code." You may also notify the U.S. Department of Education by phoning 1-800-433-3243. Ask the customer service representative to add Saint Leo University (federal school code 001526) to your FAFSA. You will have to provide your name, social security number, birth date, and the Data Release Number (DRN) from your Student Aid Report (SAR) to perform this operation over the phone.

**Guess who??**

See if you can guess who the person is in the photo!