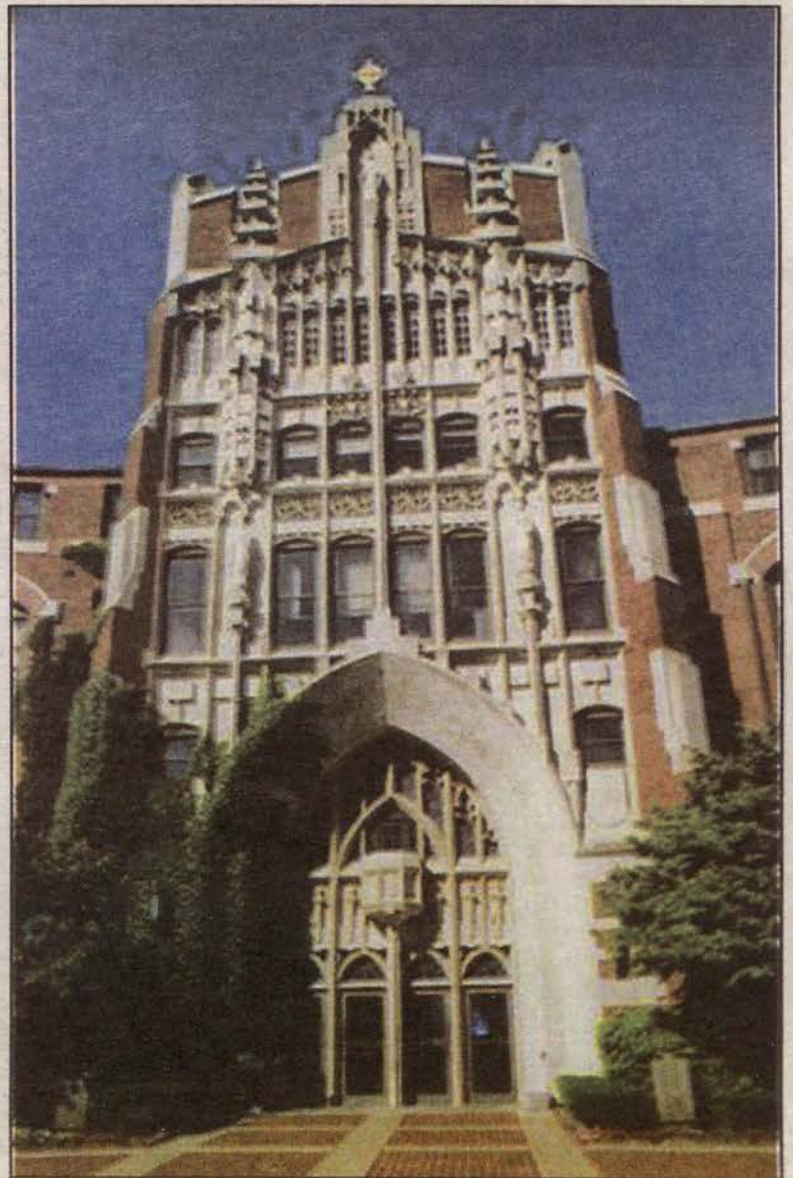
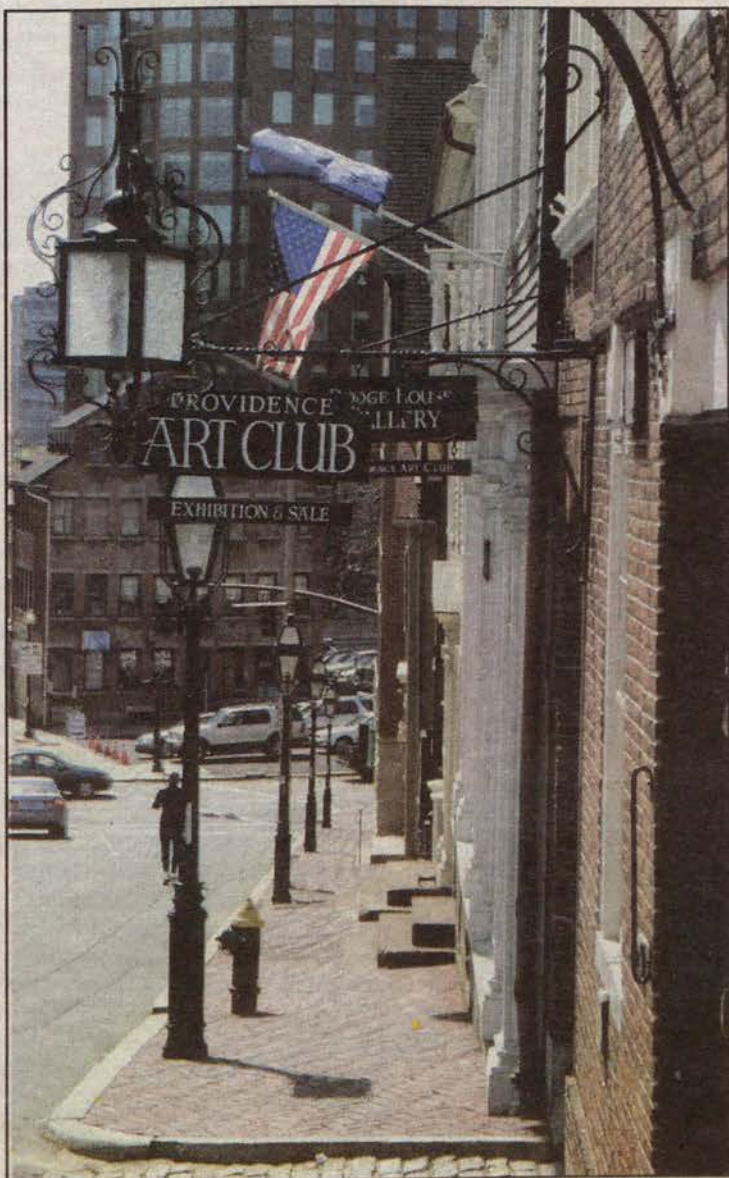


*Commencement Issue*  
2005-2006





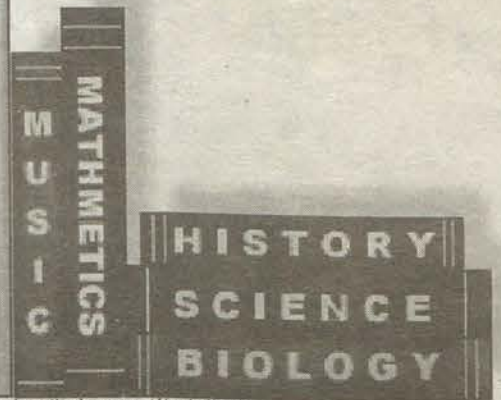


# Top of the Class

## 2006

BY KRISTINA H. REARDON '08

ASSOCIATE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



GRAPHIC BY KRISTINA H. REARDON '08/The Cowl

Images from: <http://go.dbcc.edu/recreg/images>, [www.bus.iastate.edu](http://www.bus.iastate.edu), <http://z.about.com/d/webclipart>

**Major:** Accountancy  
**Minor:** Finance

**Post graduation plans:**

Boston College, master's of accountancy program.

**Career prospects:** In September, Babbitt will begin work at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), one of the Big Four public accounting firms, as an auditor concentrating on companies in the Financial Services industry.

**Future goals:** In the long-run, Babbitt is interested in "pursuing a controller or chief financial officer position in a pharmaceutical company or hospital." She credits PC alumni involvement with accountancy events for providing her with the opportunities to secure an initial internship with PwC and also to make valuable contacts within her field of study.


**On-campus involvement:** Pastoral Service Organization; tutor; lab assistant; and research assistant in the Department of Accounting; member of the Accounting Association.

**Best PC experience:** Taking part in a business delegation to China in May of 2005. According to Babbitt, "This opportunity really helped me understand the enormous growth China is currently experiencing and how significant a role their decisions have on our own economy." As a direct result of the experience, Babbitt chose to write her se-



**KIMBERLY BABBITT**

nior Accounting Policy paper on the auditing system in China, studying its evolution alongside the move from a command to a market economy.

**What she will miss most about PC academically:** Her professors. "The dedication of various PC professors is a distinguishing feature of this school and has enabled me to develop connections with professors by working with faculty outside the classroom, even outside the school year, on various projects and research," she said. Babbitt especially credits Carol A. Hartley, assistant professor of accountancy, for prompting her to declare a major in accountancy. 

**Major:** Biology

**Post graduation plans:** Yale University, doctorate program in Cell and Molecular biology.

**Career and future goals:** Magaldi's future plans include teaching and continuing to do research in his field after completing Yale's PhD program. Ideally, he hopes "to have my own research lab at an academic institution that will also provide me with the opportunity to teach."

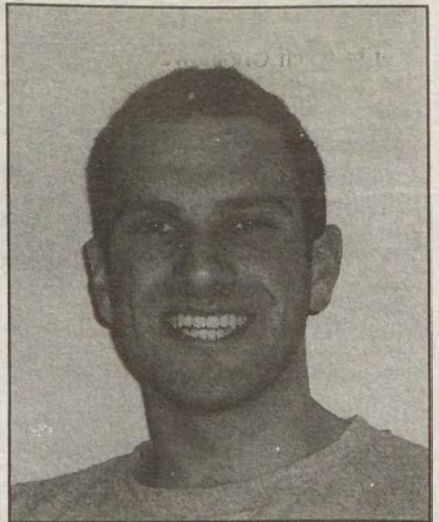
**Best academic PC experience:** Working in the laboratory with Dr. Charles R. Toth, associate professor of biology. Throughout the past few years, he spent his time studying the expression of antizyme in *Xenopus laevis* development.

Magaldi explained that "antizyme function and significance in cell proliferation are relatively unknown, and it has been shown to play a role in cancer. We are studying antizyme to understand its normal function."

Magaldi's work in the laboratory with Toth inspired him to pursue a degree in cell and molecular biology.

"Without the research opportunities at Providence, I don't know what I would be doing next year," he said.


Magaldi also said that PC's research opportunities in the science field make

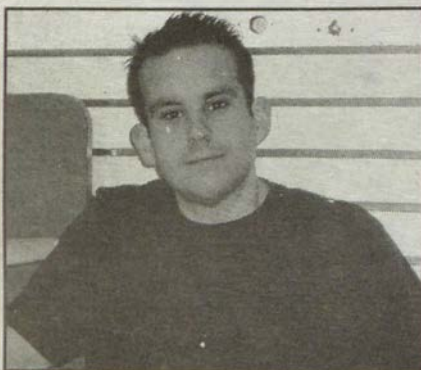


**THOMAS MAGALDI**

graduates qualified and extremely competitive in the biology and medical fields.

**Academic achievement:** Charles V. Reichart Award, in recognition of advancement in the biological sciences. The award is given annually to one graduation senior who has made significant achievement in the field.

**Significant non-academic achievement:** Winning the 2006 Midnight Mile recently. 



**JAMES BENNETT**

**Major:** Mathematics

**Post graduation plans:** Loyola University, master's program in mathematical sciences. Bennett will hold a teaching assistantship at the University.

**Career and future goals:** Bennett counts teaching among his long-term plans, saying that he would like to "continue teaching at the junior college or undergraduate level, and perhaps further my study in mathematics" after completing his degree in Chicago. Bennett would also like to pursue his comedic interests while in graduate school.

"I would like to further my interests in improv., sketch, and stand-up comedy in Chicago," he said. "For the past three months, I have been working with Inside Jokes, Inc., a professional comedy troupe in Providence, to further my skills.

"Acting has been a huge part of my life, especially in high school, and I am always seeking out dramatic work whenever I can devote time to it," he said.

**On-campus involvement:** DJ at PC's radio station WDOM; Rejects on the Rise; employed part-time at the on-campus bookstore.

**Best Non-academic PC experience:**

Bennett cites his times spent with PC's improvisation group, Rejects on the Rise, as his best experience on campus.

"Auditioning and joining [the group] my junior year allowed me to realize my love for comedy and performance and has driven me to pursue them past graduation," he said.


Without Rejects on the Rise, Bennett said he would not have arrived at the decision to continue performing and acting beyond his school years.

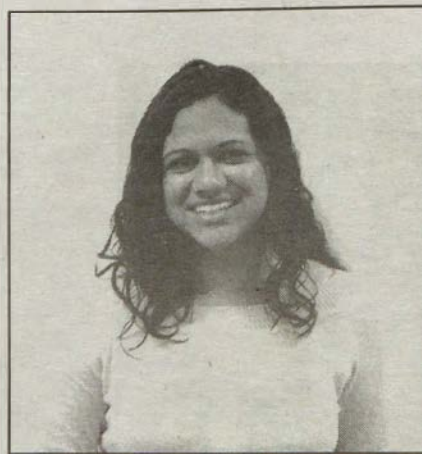
"The support from the fans and the quality of comedy we seek to perform has shown me the importance of comedy in my life and its necessity in my future," Bennett said.

**Best academic PC experience:** Bennett cited classes with Rev. David L. Stokes, O.P., assistant professor of theology, Dr. Rodney Delasanta, professor of English, and Dr. C. Joanna Su, associate professor of mathematics/computer science, as some of his best academic experiences at PC.

Bennett has also enjoyed time spent this semester with Dr. Stephen J. Lynch, professor of English and director of the Liberal Arts Honors program.

He explained that he spent the semester working on an independent research project that carried his interest in comedy into the classroom, exploring "the nature and mechanics of humor in the literature of Dostoevsky."

"Without the honest love and support of the PC faculty . . . I would not be in the position I am in today," Bennet said. 



**DIANA VEMBENIL**

**Major:** Mathematics

**Minor:** Theology

**Post graduation plans:** Columbia University, Teachers College for Mathematics Secondary Education.

**On-campus involvement:** Resident Assistant (RA) in Meagher Hall for the past two years; vice president of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA); liturgical choir.

**Best academic PC experience:** Saying she is "in love with the whole math department," Vembenil finds it hard to isolate just one professor or mathematics experience that affected her the most.

Yet, it was Dr. C. Joanna Su, associate professor of mathematics/computer science, that first inspired Vembenil to stick with her choice of major—something she doubted when first coming to PC.

"But after having Dr. Su as a professor, I don't think I really ever doubted my choice again," she said,

adding that Su has helped inspire her to pursue a career in teaching mathematics. **Best Non-academic PC Experience:** If you ask Vembenil to recall her singular best moment at PC, she likely won't be able to do it—there are too many "best PC moments" for Vembenil to pick just one.


As a RA, Vembenil takes care of the second floor of Meagher Hall. "I love my job," she said. "I seriously could not have picked better girls to work with. And, my floor is really great also."

Vembenil calls being part of BMSA a "ridiculously amazing experience." She enjoys watching the various cultural clubs under its jurisdiction come together for events and community service, noting that spending her time with BMSA is "something I'm glad that I can say that I was a part of."

If you ask Vembenil to pin it down, though, she will identify the time the "Nimbooda Dancers" came into existence as her most valued PC experience.

"My sophomore year, I approached the exec. board of the Asian American Club and asked them if I could teach an Indian dance to a few members of the club for the end of the year expo," Vembenil explained.

"That year, we performed the dance to the song 'Nimbooda'—hence the name Nimbooda Dancers. And, since that time, we have performed at BMSA events, Diversity Week . . . I love teaching and performing these dances," she concluded. "It's a way in which I can share part of my culture with everyone here."

**Academic Achievements:** Multicultural Scholarship Program, Dean's Scholarship. 





**ELISE ITALIANO**

**Major:** Humanities  
**Minors:** Theology, Italian  
**Post graduation plans:** Villanova University, master's program in theology.  
**Career and future goals:** A self-proclaimed lover of the Western Civilization program at PC, Italiano would "love to return to PC as a professor of theology and get to teach Civ as well." She noted that, ultimately, her main goal in life is to be a wife and a mother.  
**Best academic PC experience:** Italiano put it simply: "Anyone who knows me would say that I am the biggest proponent of Civ on this campus. The integration of multiple disciplines in order to explicate how our Western thought and culture has developed led me to greater intellectual but also spiritual growth." She also cited a course she took called History of the Modern Middle East, taught by Dr. Margaret M. Manchester, assistant professor of history and department chair, as another class that left a lasting impression on her college experience. "[It] had a significant impact on me, particularly because of the relevance of the subject in today's world," she said.  
**On-campus involvement:** President of the Spiritual and Liturgical Council; Dirigo Honor Society; orientation leader in 2004.



## Seniors in the Spotlight

They've studied hard, and it's paid off. But even beyond the textbooks and the classroom, this year's highest academically ranked seniors have risen to the top. Holding leadership positions on the Board of Programmers, the Spiritual and Liturgical Council, and the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs, Providence College's best and brightest have also spent time participating in business delegations in China, spinning tunes as DJs on the PC radio station WDOM, studying the relationship between antizymes and cancer in the science laboratories, and even teaching Indian dances. Headed off to some of the highest ranked graduate programs in the country, such as Yale University, Columbia University, Duke University, and Villanova University, these hard-working student are leaving PC behind—but not without leaving a lasting impression.

Here's a look at the elite group that rounds off the top of the Class of 2006.



**KRISTIN JASINSKI**

**Major:** Mathematics  
**Minors:** French  
**Post graduation plans:** Accepted a job with CIGNA in Connecticut. Jasinski will work as an actuarial analyst, computing insurance risks and premiums. Last summer, she was an intern in the Actuarial Executive Development Program at CIGNA.  
**Career and future goals:** Jasinski hopes to obtain a FSA (Fellowship of the Society of Actuaries) in the coming years by passing the necessary exams.  
**Best non-academic PC experience:** Having the chance to honor her grandmother in the American Cancer Society's 18-hour Relay for Life, held annually on campus. "For the past three years, I have been proud to honor the memory of my grandmother by raising funds and walking [in the relay]," Jasinski said.  
**Best academic PC experience:** Working with Dr. C. Joanna Su, associate professor of mathematics/computer science. "Professor Su's passion for and dedication to her students was inspiring, and I have taken away many life lessons from her courses, in addition to valuable knowledge," Jasinski said.  
**On-campus involvement:** Member of Pi Mu Epsilon (National Honor Society for mathematics); member of Pi Delta Phi (National Honor Society for French); President of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) '04-'05; Coordinator of middle school mentor program at Woodlawn Catholic Regional High School for NSCS.



**SARAH MAYORGA**

**Major:** Sociology  
**Minor:** Black Studies  
**Post graduation plans:** Duke University, Sociology PhD program. Her focus in the program will be in race and gender relations.  
**Career and future goals:** Upon completing Duke's doctorate program, Mayorga hopes to find a job in academia.  
 "I see myself as a college professor, while simultaneously staying involved in social justice issues in the area," she said. "I want to be able to research and do advocacy work."

**On-campus involvement:** President of Board of Programmers; Resident Assistant; orientation leader in 2004.  
**Best academic PC experience:** Mayorga called her time spent in a class taught by Dr. Charlotte G. O'Kelly, professor of sociology and chair of the department, a "turing point" in her academic career. The class was called The Power of Whiteness.  
 "It enabled me to connect my own life experiences and sociological theories on race and gender," Mayorga explained, saying the experience opened her eyes to a new way of viewing the world.  
 "It awakened my 'sociological imagination,' so to speak," she said.  
 Mayorga also cited Dr. Eric Hirsch, professor of sociology as an academic influence.  
 "I took four classes with him, and he helped me get an internship last summer at CrossroadsRI, a homeless service organization," Mayorga said. "His own academic interests parallel mine, and his advocacy work in the community has inspired me and my own future plans."



**ELIZA PARKER**

**Major:** Social Sciences  
**Post graduation plans:** Law school, though she has not yet decided at which university she will pursue her degree.  
**Off-campus involvement:** Part-time employment as a human resources coordinator; independent study of the law-making process in Rhode Island; involvement of the development of a new non-profit organization designed to aid children and families living in poverty.  
**Best academic PC experience:** Spending time in the classroom with some of her favorite professors, one of whom is Dr. James Moorhead, assistant professor of sociology. "My best experience at PC has been taking courses taught by professor Jim Moorhead," she said. "Jim's classes are unlike any others. They combine an open discussion forum with topics of unique relevance to all college students.  
 Parker also cites Dr. Charlotte G. O'Kelly, professor of sociology and chair of the department; Dr. Peter Goodrich, associate professor of management; and Dr. Russell R. Chabot, adjunct assistant professor of sociology as having positively affected her academic experience at PC. "Whether or not they are aware of it, all of these amazing teachers made a lasting contribution to my academic career," she said.

**Major:** History  
**Post graduation plans:** American University, Washington Semester Summer Program; Internship with the National Park Service.  
**Career and future goals:** Keough hopes to attend graduate school within the next few years and ultimately obtain a job related to history.  
**Best academic PC experience:** Keough enjoyed the diverse intellectual experiences related to his major. "My favorite academic experience would have to be learning about the history of so many different countries around the world," Keough said.  
**Academic awards:** Dean's List; Phi Alpha Theta (National Honor Society for History majors); National Society of Collegiate Scholars; Collegiate All-American Scholar Award nominee; PC Pell Award recipient for the most promising student in American history.



**MATTHEW KEOUGH**



**CHERYL BLINE**

**Major:** Biology  
**Post graduation plans:** Brown Medical School.  
**Career and future goals:** Bline hopes to have a career as a pediatrician after graduating from Brown.  
**Best academic**

**PC experience:** Researching with Dr. Elisabeth Arevalo, associate professor of biology, is among Bline's best PC memories. She also presented at the Eastern Colleges Science Conference.  
**Academic awards:** Bline was accepted to Brown Medical School under the Early Identification Program in the spring of 2004.  
**Best non-academic PC experience:** Helping a retired physician provide basic medical screening at a local food pantry.



**BETH HEALEY**

**Major:** History  
**Future goals:** Attend graduate school to study history; become a teacher.  
**On-campus involvement:** Member of SOAR (Students Organized Against Racism); PC Democrats; volunteer with the Pastoral Service Organization's adult literacy program.  
**Best academic PC experience:** Healey cites some of her best times at PC as studying in the Liberal Arts Honors Program and taking history classes, where she met some inspiring professors. "In both," Healey said, "I had amazing professors who were dedicated to both their students and their subject matter."  
**Academic achievement:** 2006 recipient of the Forster Award for European History; Liberal Arts Honors Program; Phi Alpha Theta (National Honor Society for history majors); National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

**DAYLE PARNELL-LAMPEN**  
**Majors:** Biology and Chemistry  
**Post graduation plans:** Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.  
**Academic achievement:** Tied for highest GPA in the department of Biology; highest Chemistry BA GPA; Liberal Arts Honors Program certificate; American Chemical Society Award.



# In a new role as Commencement speaker

By MEGHAN K. WELSH '06  
ASST. NEWS EDITOR EMERITUS

When John O'Hurley '76, this year's Commencement speaker, walks down the street, people still recognize him as J. Peterman, the character he played on the hit T.V. show *Seinfeld*. While he is often asked for an autograph or a photo, he recently received an entirely different type of request.

"I was walking down the street one day when Father Shanley called my cell phone and personally invited me to attend this year's Commencement ceremony as an honorary degree recipient and speaker," O'Hurley said. "I was floored."

During a recent phone interview, O'Hurley said that he was "tremendously honored" to receive the invitation and commented, "It doesn't feel so long ago that I was sitting there in the shoes of this year's graduates."

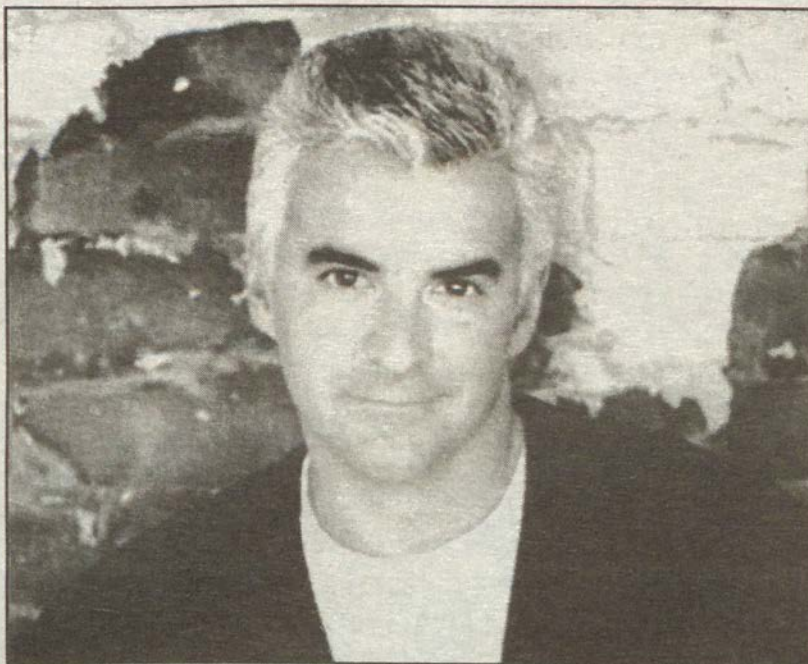
O'Hurley said that he plans to bring a number of family members with him to the commencement exercises and that they are eager to see him receive his honorary degree.

His father was a graduate of the class of 1948 and O'Hurley's twin brothers Bruce and Neil both attended Providence College as well.

"We're definitely a Providence College family," O'Hurley said.

Reflecting back on his time at Providence College, O'Hurley spoke mostly about the theater department.

"I remember my times at PC very fondly," O'Hurley said. "College was a



www.johnohurley.com

very important time for me. It was a time where I was able to totally immerse myself in theater and leaving PC was very bittersweet because of that . . . I know that for the graduates I'm speaking to this year, leaving PC will be equally as hard because of the important years they've spent there."

O'Hurley said that he believes that "we learn by doing," and that PC gave him an enormous sense of self as an actor.

"I got to do all of these incredible roles and the small and intimate theater department really nurtured my passion

for acting," O'Hurley said. "If I had gone to Yale, graduate students would have been getting these roles."

O'Hurley said that last formal event he attended for Providence College was in 1998 for a concert he performed in alongside the Rhode Island Philharmonic orchestra.

He noted that he has not yet seen the Smith Center for the Arts, to which he made a contribution to fund a rehearsal room.

"I'm so excited to see it," O'Hurley said. "It's really a great recognition of how important the arts are in education.

With a building on campus like that, PC can compete with other elite institutions that specialize in the arts."

At the time of the interview, O'Hurley said that he had not planned his remarks as Commencement speaker. O'Hurley then turned on his famous wit and joked, "Unlike most of the time I spent at Providence College, I promise I will have something prepared in advance."

When questioned if he would be speaking in the theatrical baritone voice that made him famous as J. Peterman during the Commencement address, O'Hurley laughed and said, "I guess I hadn't really considered that option!"

On a more serious note, O'Hurley spoke candidly about his career and how for many years he "lived under a shroud of the character of J. Peterman."

He said that recent career choices such as competing on ABC's *Dancing with the Stars* allowed fans of his work to see him in an entirely different way.

"People always thought of me on *Seinfeld* terms," O'Hurley said. "*Dancing with the Stars* was different. For the first time, I was doing something different. *Dancing* on T.V. was very different than acting—there was no security net for me there."

O'Hurley recently finished his run as Billy Flynn in the Broadway musical *Chicago* and will resume his role in the show when it goes on tour in June. He mentioned that a role for him in another show may be in the works as well.

In addition, O'Hurley will replace actor Richard Karn as the host of the popular T.V. game show *Family Feud* this fall.

## On to the next section in the newspaper of life

By MALLARY JEAN TENORE '07  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Staying up late in *The Cowl* office is a common occurrence on Wednesday nights, as editors cram to write stories on deadline, edit articles, and lay out their sections. If the editors of the Sports and News sections (generally the last two sections to be completed) are lucky, they may get out by 1:00 a.m., with the hope of having their head collapse onto the pillow soon after.

As I sit here clickity clacking away on a computer in *The Cowl* office, I can't help but think of all the memorable moments we as editors have shared in the office this year; from the weekly editorial meetings we held amidst stacks of newspapers, to the breaks taken to listen to our favorite childhood sitcom theme songs on [www.retrojunk.com](http://www.retrojunk.com), to the gallons of coffee we gulp in a desperate attempt to stay awake, this office is filled to the brim with memories. The pictures plastered on the wall flash the smiles of past *Cowl* staff members, reminders of those whose names and faces will forever be part of this newspaper's great history.

And the names and faces keep on coming. This month, *The Cowl* will see many of its top editors leave as they prepare to lay out their next section in the newspaper of life. Hot off the press, they will enter the world and hit the newsstands of reality, ready to share their stories and breadth of knowledge with others.

The late nights they shared in *The Cowl* office will soon be replaced with work in the professional realm, or graduate-level work, perhaps arousing feelings of nostalgia, prompting them to want to return to the comforts and familiarity of Providence College.

While the College will always be here in essence, members of the Class of 2006 must seek new ways of finding fun in their lives. And, while their ties with their alma mater may loosen, they will never break. Years from now, they may visit

PC on a stroll down memory lane, astonished to see how much their former classmates have changed.

“*The Cowl's* writers could pen hundreds of stories about the legacies that graduating seniors will leave behind . . .”

Thanks to members of the Class of 2006 who donated to the Senior Giving Project, this stroll will be, to some degree, a reality. In the near future, PC alumni will be able to take a walk down "Alumni Lane,"—a brick walkway that will extend from St. Dominic Chapel to Phillips Memorial Library. The lane, which is scheduled to be built in August, will be inlaid with personalized bricks denoting the name of students who donated to the Senior Giving Program. Bricks will be added each year with the donations of the College's future seniors.

According to Jon DeFusco, program officer in the Office of Alumni Relations and a coordinator of the Senior Giving Program, seniors raised a total of \$30,000, far surpassing their goal of \$25,000. DeFusco noted that the volume of donations suggests that when it comes down to it, most students really do care about PC. "A primary message we conveyed in our marketing is that your time at PC does not end at graduation; you are a lifelong member of the PC community and we called on seniors to leave a lasting legacy on campus," he said.

His words toll the bells of truth and signal the fact that regardless of whether or not they have donated to the College, all seniors will inevitably leave their own mark on the College. They will add yet another chapter to the historical chronicles of PC, chronicles which continue to grow as seniors graduate and freshmen arrive on campus, ready to create their own legacies.

*The Cowl's* writers could pen hun-

dreds of stories about the legacies that graduating seniors will leave behind and, if the hands of time were more generous, we would. Yet, as they enter this new chapter in the historical chronicle of their own lives, we can only hope the seniors will be bold enough to create their own front-page stories with each new experience they undertake.

As *The Cowl* enters a new chapter in its 71st year of publication, it too will experience changes—new bylines will adorn its pages and newly-appointed editors will enact their plans for the continued improvement of the paper. As the new editor-in-chief, I will take the many lessons I learned from my old "chief," 2005-06 *Cowl* editor Michael Massey '06, and share them with others who follow in my path.

Though the editorial board has changed, the late-night Wednesdays will continue to be an integral part of the paper's legacy here at PC, and life in the office will move on. We often jokingly call the office the "windowless hovel,"

which, to some degree, makes sense. It is located in the chambers of Slavin, neatly tucked in the corridor across from McPhail's without any windows through which the sunlight can penetrate. Needless to say, after hours of laying out sections of the newspaper, we are often left to guess what the temperature is and whether or not it is still light or dark outside.

But despite its lack of windows, the office has provided its frequenters with a window of opportunity that offers a glimpse into the future of its graduating seniors. Whether they know it or not, the work the seniors have completed, and the lessons they have learned in the office, will be reflected in the ways in which they handle themselves in life beyond PC.

In much the same way, Providence College is a window that overlooks the future of the members of the Class of 2006. The future, though unpredictable, can always be traced back to the reflection in the window, to the place where it all started, to this great place we call PC.



### Attention Seniors!

- Pricing brochures for formal pictures are now available in the Congress office
- Plan for Wednesday's event: expect a longer bus ride and dress for cooler weather
- Buses are on a **first come, first serve** basis. Students may only enter Peterson from the front entrance.
- The senior video will be shown and distributed as a gift to students during brunch at the Park Plaza on Friday. Don't miss this opportunity to finish off a great week!
- **EVENT TIMES:**  
**Tuesday:** must be in Peterson NO LATER than 7 pm.  
**Wednesday:** must be in Peterson NO LATER than 4:45 pm  
**Thursday:** check-in at Park Plaza begins at 3 pm  
**Friday:** brunch at Park Plaza at 10 am.

Any more questions? Contact Jackie McCormick at [jmccor06@providence.edu](mailto:jmccor06@providence.edu)



# Seniors reflect on successful service

*Seniors and professors share their thoughts about public and community service and the legacy the majors in the Class of 2006 leave behind*

BY MEGAN GORZKOWSKI '08  
HEAD COPY EDITOR

In 1993, Rhode Island philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein—the namesake of countless Rhode Island University buildings, social projects, and even an IMAX theater—donated \$5 million to Providence College for a new academic center dedicated to community service. The center would be the first of its kind, and PC would be the first college to offer a major in Public and Community Service Studies. Thirteen years later, the Feinstein Institute for Public Service still follows its original mission as listed on the College's Website: "To provide the students of Providence College with an educational experience within our liberal arts curriculum which prepares them to become builders of human communities and responsible citizens of a democratic society."

Dr. Raymond L. Sickinger, professor of history, has led the institute for the past three years. It was first directed by Dr. Richard M. Battistoni, professor of political science. Sickinger, a professor at Providence College for more

than 30 years, previously served the College as an assistant dean and coordinator of the advisement program for undeclared students, as well as the director of the College's assessment program. He said he took the director's position because he believed in the mission of the Institute and because he wanted to bring his experiences as a member on the National Board of Directors for the St. Vincent de Paul Society into the classroom.

"As someone involved with PC for

"It isn't about majoring in working a soup kitchen. It's about bridging gaps within the community.

Ericc Powell '06

32 years with a strong service commitment, I believe that part of the college experience should be deep service and reflection, as found in our Public and Community Service Studies major and minor," said Sickinger.

Katie Schoen '06, a public and community service studies major, said the

service and reflection components of the program were also what drew her to Providence College. Each course in the program involves a service-learning component, and coursework throughout the semester reflects on the students' experiences with their particular service site. During students' junior and senior years, they participate in a practicum, in which they serve as facilitators for their specific service sites. "You form long-lasting relationships with your site," said Schoen, who has worked with Youth Pride Inc., an organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans-gendered, queer, and teenagers questioning their sexual identity in the Providence area during her four years at PC.

Ericc Powell '06, also a public and community service major, did not learn about the Feinstein Institute until his sophomore year at PC. Coming into college, Powell's only goal was to find a major that would allow him to do something with service. "I developed more col-

lege goals because of the major," he said. "The program has helped my college experience because it sent me into the community, and gave me the opportunity to meet so many people."

Schoen agreed that the public and community service studies program allowed her to make some amazing relationships. "The 13 of us [seniors graduating with a major in the program] have grown together over the past few years, and we feel strongly about leaving such a tight-knit program," she said. In addition to the 13 graduating majors, there are 10 members of the Class of 2006 graduating with minors in the program. "Usually six or seven students enter PC as Public and Community Service Studies majors," said Sickinger. "Rarely do we lose any, and we usually gain about five or six additional students who declare later on."

Public and community service studies majors and minors follow many different post-graduate paths. Many attend graduate school in related fields such as social work or public policy, while others pursue law degrees. Schoen will attend the University of Pennsylvania School of Non-Profit Leadership for one year after graduation to receive her masters degree. Other students volunteer in programs such as the Peace Corps or Habitat for Humanity. Powell is spending June through August participating in Bike and Build, a bike ride from Rhode Island to Washington in which every 12 days, participants stop and build houses at a specific site. Powell said this particular program appealed to him because it "combines athleticism and volunteering." After the summer, Powell, a native of Western Massachusetts, says he plans to stay in Rhode Island and volunteer with Americorps or with Campus Compact, a nationwide program of more than 950 colleges seeking to promote service-learning in higher education. According to Sickinger, Providence College will be joining Campus Compact within the next year.

The Feinstein Institute for Public Service will also face some exciting changes over the summer, as the public and com-



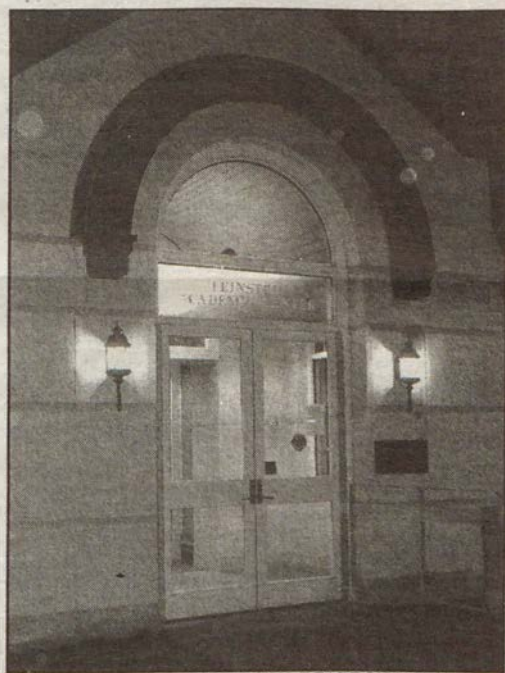
www.feinsteinfoundation.org

Alan Shawn Feinstein donated \$5 million to fund a new academic building dedicated to community service in 1993. Today, the former Stevens Hall is called the Feinstein Academic Center.

munity service studies program becomes an official academic department. Three professors—Dr. Ellen P. Salvatore, associate professor of Social Work; Dr. Keith Morton, associate professor of English; and Sickinger—have already agreed to be members on the newly founded department's faculty. The department status of the major potentially will attract more prospective students interested in service-learning. Currently, the Feinstein Institute is able to offer eight or nine four-year scholarships of \$5,000 to incoming freshman entering Providence College declared as public and community services studies majors and in good academic standing. The scholarships, like the Institute, are made possible by a grant from Alan Shawn Feinstein.

The outlook of the Feinstein Institute for Public Service looks bright. As Powell said, "It isn't about majoring in working a soup kitchen. It's about bridging gaps within the community."

Sickinger agreed, saying the program allows students "to learn more about self, others, and the needs of others. Also, it teaches students to see solutions to difficulties in communities, and identify the assets that people in the communities have, instead of just their deficiencies."



KRISTINA H. REARDON '08/The Cowl

The lights outside the Feinstein Academic Center continue to shine despite the dark and the rain on a recent night, much like the legacy that graduating Public and Community Service Studies majors leave behind.

## Saying goodbye to the good ol' years

BY COLLEEN FLYNN '07  
COMMENTARY STAFF

When *The Cowl's* Editor-in-Chief, Mallary Tenore '07, dropped a note in my Endymion account asking for Commencement Issue submissions, I cringed upon reading it.

I do not like to think about another year of amazing upperclassmen leaving me to brave the pleasures and the perils of Providence College alone.

Let's face it, I do not enjoy growing up, nor do I enjoy contemplating the fact that I am one year closer to the conclusion of my college experience.

I thoroughly enjoyed my status as an underclassman, being guided and protected by upperclassmen and imagining that some day I might be admired for having some similar semblance of cool. Just seeing Mallary's name with the title Editor-in-Chief attached to it, a title she

has worked long and hard for since our days as freshmen, puts me in awe of how much has changed from being rookies to ruling the roost.

I am not eager to be a senior. Senior year strikes me as a glorified countdown, in which the clock strikes and you slide down the rainbow to either rented real estate or the quest to find yourself through travel, neither of which I can afford with the thunderclouds known as student loans looming overhead.

I like this little bubble in Providence and I am not sure if I am ready to leave it. Maybe I'll stay back a year...

I liked the freshness and excitement that saturated every moment as an underclassman. I liked the challenge of finding a fake I.D. Where's the fun in the security of a veritable 21 year old I.D.? OK, I can see the fun, but the suspense is completely gone. I liked the even bigger challenge of finding a late-

night party not run by lacrosse players. Being an upperclassman means you have to clean up the house in the morning. Yuck.

I liked ogling over older boys and entertaining the thought that I might get invited to a party or a concert or their lunch table. I liked sitting beside cute seniors who barely knew my name, let alone knew I had theirs scribbled all over my notebook. (Not much has changed, even as a junior.)

Being an upperclassman means my dating pool has gone from Olympic to kiddie. Sorry young'uns, I do not rob the cradle.

I liked being on the receiving end of advice and assistance. Upperclassmen were the source of knowledge for where to buy the best records, discount shoes, and sushi in the city.

They were the emergency car rides to the airport and the kitchens for making

dinner other than Ray Cafe. They told you when the meetings were, and all you had to do was show up. Being an upperclassman means you have to plan the meetings.

Being an upperclassman means bringing your own pictures from Spain to show to prospective study abroad sophomores.

Being an upperclassman means early registration. Being an upperclassman means parking spaces and off-campus housing. Being an upperclassman means seeing slideshows and laughing about how young you looked.

It's all a bit surreal. On top of that, it's all a bit hasty. I am not ready to let the upperclassmen go, nor am I ready to assume the role of a senior. I will miss you, seniors; best of luck.

When I finally resign myself to being the oldest, the wisest, and the coolest, you can leave knowing PC is in good hands because you taught us well.



# Parting with a place called home

By STEPHANIE SMITH '06  
A&E EDITOR EMERITUS

I cannot tell a lie. The thought of graduating from Providence College causes in me a shortness of breath that few other things in my life have been able to create.

The idea of giving up my comfortable "student" lifestyle and adopting a rather permanent 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. schedule, giving up a daily routine that consists mostly of analyzing poetry, and giving up summer vacations altogether, has caused a particularly distracting lump in my throat these past few weeks.

Usually when I feel like I have too much to do, I make a nice, neat to-do list and map out each day. Before I know it, the work is done and another week has passed.

However, now, I don't want any neat to-do lists or the days to fly by because when that happens, as I am now realizing, I wake up one morning and it's May.

So now it's May, and you know what? It isn't the student life or my academic pursuits or the summers off that I think I will really not be able to live without—I mean, I can always go back to school—I think, instead, my growing Peter Pan syndrome stems from the realization that I have to leave PC.

Sure, I know that the warm-and-fuzziness of PC is not the "real world" and that it could not possibly have lasted forever, but the people who I spend each day with here I will sorely miss.

Think about it seriously for a second—we live here. We eat at PC, we sleep at PC, we get sick, tired, happy, sad, overwhelmed, lazy, and ecstatic at PC. We get good news and we get bad news at PC.

We share that news with the people



TIM PISACICH '07/The Cowl

Stephanie Smith '06 said what she will miss most about PC are the "normal things," such as Sunday morning Dunkin' Donuts trips with roommates and going out to dinner (and starting the weekend early) on Thursday nights.

we live with, who are the same people that we go out with on Friday night.

Wherever we go we see people we know, people who want us to do well in life. And all of a sudden come May of our senior year, they expect us to pack up our little homes and say goodbye. Well, we've become pretty damn comfortable and, personally, I'm not so sure I want to go.

I could never be a college student for the rest of my life; I think I'd die. I know someday I'll look back on all the crazy times I've had at PC and feel exhausted. I think the things I'll really miss are the normal things that maybe I could have done forever.

Like, I don't know, having all of my

roommates wake up on Saturday morning at the same time, plop down on the couch, and wait for someone to offer to go to Dunkin' Donuts.

Someone always does; it's always just a matter of time. Or, going out to dinner on a Thursday night and getting dressed up for no reason, exclaiming we need to "treat ourselves right" after a long week (yes, the week ends on Thursday).

Or, during the winter, never leaving our apartment all day on Saturday and just watching movie after movie and eventually ordering delivery.

Or, before going out to the bar, just getting together with all my friends and talking about whatever. The topic never mattered; it was more about being all in

one place.

Or, being able to go to *The Cowl* office and know that I would know everyone there. Or, knowing that the person in front of me when I walk into Harkins Hall was going to hold the door.

Sure, this all sounds really cheesy. I might even read this in a few years and want to throw up. Regardless, right now, during the first week in May of my last year as a student at Providence College, I am incredibly sad that I have to give this all up.

For the record, when you are a senior you don't get sick of going out and you don't get sick of college—the only thing I've ever gotten sick of is Ray food. If I could do it all over again, I wouldn't study more, but I wouldn't go out more either.

Balancing work and play is important. I think I would relax more. I would appreciate the Dunkin' Donuts runs and the going out to dinner and the watching MTV reality shows while wearing oversized sweatpants—the little things, the things you can't get sick of because you hardly notice when they're happening.

So, underclassmen, when you feel overwhelmed because of too much homework or too much partying or too much college, remember that it will end and when it does you, too, will be terribly sad.

You, too, will realize that for four years you lived in a world where you got to live with your best friends and people said, "God bless you" when you sneezed. Providence College is not the "real world," but right now it is where we live. It's, you know, home.

And now that it's May, I realize that it's OK that I am as upset about leaving as I am, because, in a lot of ways, I'm not going home, I'm leaving home.

## 'All the small things' that matter most

By ERIN REDIHAN '08  
ASST. SPORTS EDITOR

One of the opening lines from my favorite U2 song states, "the only baggage you can bring/is all that you can't leave behind," which I think is a fitting adage for a commencement ceremony.

If you think of all of the things you must leave behind come graduation, it can be very overwhelming.

Suddenly one day, after four years in a secure, somewhat sheltered environment, everything changes. You're out in the "real world" for the first time and there are many things that you cannot bring with you.

There's no plausible way to keep everyone whom you've met at school in the same place together anymore.

You cannot bring what has become, in a way, your home either. It's pretty tough to find a dorm room or an apartment building with only students as residents to live in once you've finished college.

It's also pretty tough to recreate the day-to-day experiences that have come habitual as well, like your favorite corner in the library or the table you view

as yours in Ray or the place on campus you go whenever you just need to escape for a little bit.

So it is true that there's a lot you must discard when you walk across that stage in May. But as the song goes, at the same time, there are many things that you cannot leave behind and, many times, these are the most special things: The ones you

“

Who can forget the experience of move-in day freshman year and the feelings you have going into a situation that is radically different from anything you have ever faced?

”

cannot hold onto physically, but that have become a part of who you are over the last four years. These are the lessons you have learned, the mistakes you made, and perhaps most important of all, the memories.

Who can forget the experience of move-in day freshman year and the feelings you have going into a situation that is radically different from anything you have ever faced?

You entered a new world where virtually everyone was a stranger and everything around

you was new. At times during the first few days, the campus may have seemed like the loneliest place on the planet.

And some days, the real world will feel like that too. But that sentiment passes with time as it likely did when freshman year came to a close. As you get used to your surroundings and make friendships, the loneliness fades and new bonds are formed.

Is it possible to forget the experience of Western Civ? Think of all the time spent working both in and out of class, counting down the days until the final at the end of sophomore year.

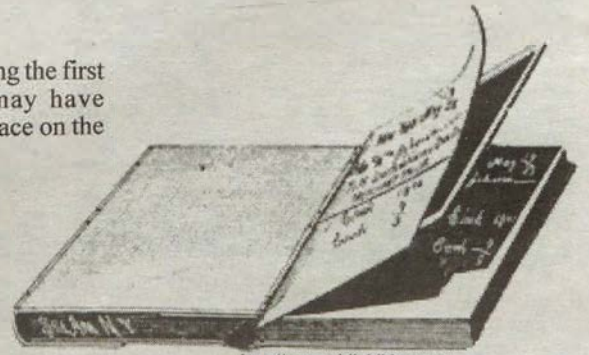
Although it's impossible to remember everything (and at times to remember anything) that was jammed into class five days a week for two years, it's the struggle that counts.

If you look at Civ only in terms of facts and test scores, all you really emerge with is a jumble of useless Jeopardy trivia.

But when you consider all you learned apart from the minute details, you see how those endless two years prepare you to face almost anything in the next two.

Then there's the out of class experiences. The little things like the late-night pizzas with your roommates or taking the bus to Shaw's to stock up on all the things you can't live without and that Ray Cafe doesn't serve.

Or all the time you waste just talking with friends on your floor who happen to stop by. You know there are probably 10 other things you should be doing and yet, you just can't make them leave because on some level you realize that this is what college is all about. In the end,



<http://www.philobiblon.com>

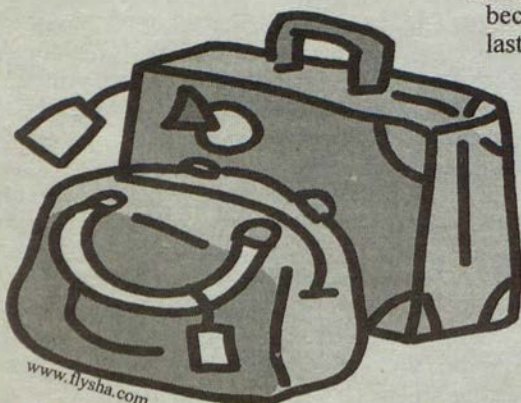
it's the little things that matter the most.

And it's these little things that you must carry with you beyond Commencement. All of the memories, all of the tests or trials that were matters of life and death at the time, may seem like nothing now.

At the end of it all, you can look back and realize that you did make it through.

And all of the experiences that you have had have changed you from the lowly freshman you were when you first turned onto Huxley Avenue almost four years ago with your parents and the trunk overloaded with everything you could possibly need, to the proud senior who will drive down that road one last time inundated not only with all of the stuff that you don't remember ever needing but also with the memories: The things that do not take up precious car space but fulfill a different kind of need.

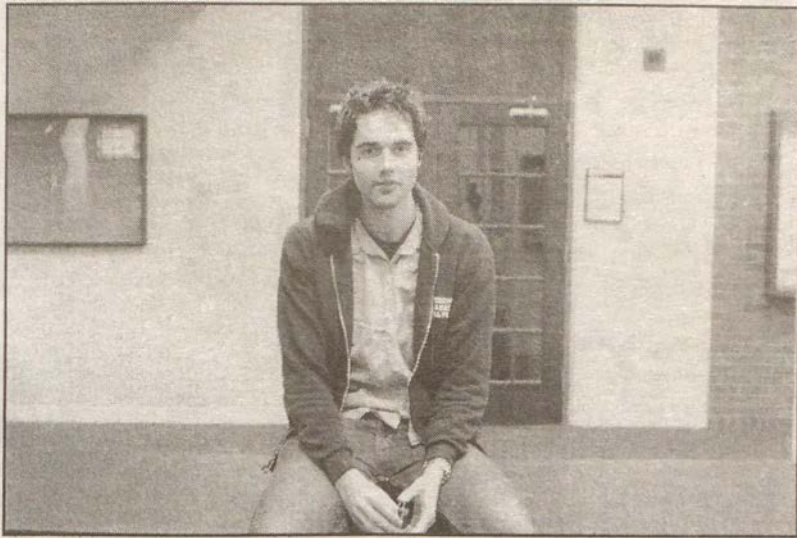
The memories, the experiences, and the lessons that you carry into your new life have become the part of you that you cannot leave behind, even as your college days move into the past.



[www.flysha.com](http://www.flysha.com)



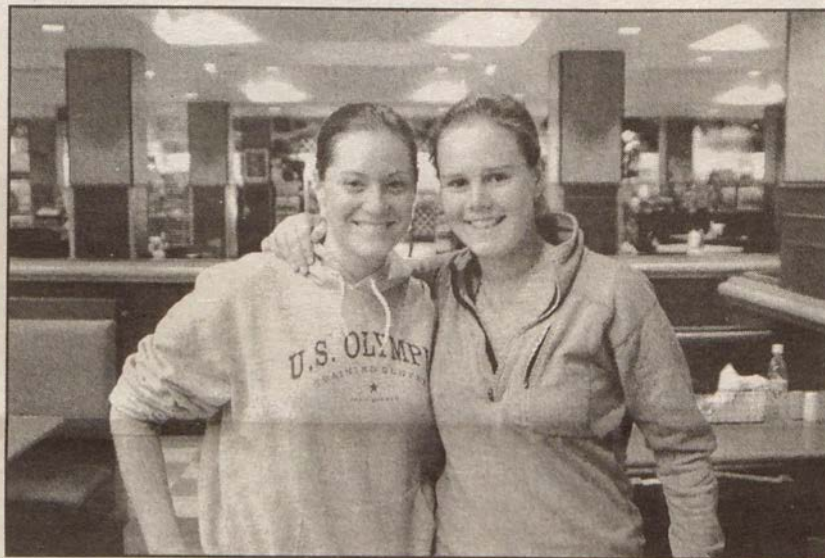
# What is your favorite PC memory?



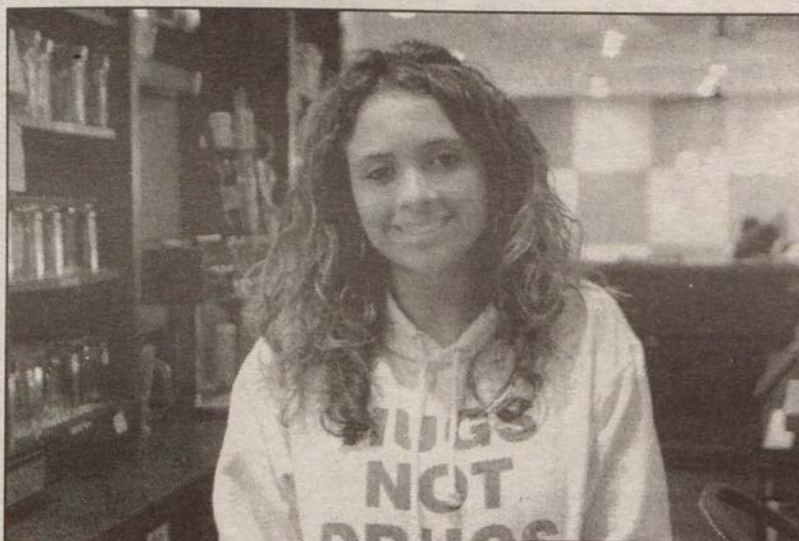
"Duty on the weekends in Fennell."  
Matthew Weber '06



"The Allie Dance."  
Emily-Anne Patt '06



"Joining Rugby."  
Katelynn Laffin '06, Janna Lafayette '06



"The last show of the Dance Company and second floor Ditrage."  
Rafaela Kirloss '06



"Late nights at the chapel—upstairs and downstairs."  
Emanuel Vasconcelos '06



Random freshman guy  
"Dude, totally going to Remi's last Friday! Yeeaahh!"



# They've already helped guide the accounting standards of an entire nation. What's next?\*

## xACT 2006

This spring, 55 students, supported by the entire accounting department faculty, were given a difficult task: Challenge established thinking on the accountant's role and its impact on the capital market in the land of Panadrevia. Their ideas were evaluated by a panel of PricewaterhouseCoopers professionals, who named the top teams.

Join us in congratulating all the students who participated and the top first place teams from Providence College:

### Lady Friars

Lauren Bowe  
Kristen Brown  
Meghan Bruce  
Rachel Gibbons  
Breanna McKeehan

### Assets Unlimited LLP

Melissa Couturier  
Gregory Hartwell  
Kate Murray  
Thomas Quinn  
Jennie Rezuze

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