For many students preparing to graduate, the path to post-college adventures has taken an unexpected turn. The normalcy of going to work each day is no longer.

Watching the images unfold on the TV screen, my body was in shock, my mind in disbelief. On the phone, my brother's voice reassured me that he was safe in Manhattan. I cried. I cried not only for our nation, not only for the many lives lost, but for the skyline I just saw, and the future I was about to enter.

One week earlier, I was finishing a summer visit to the city that never sleeps, the city that my brother had made his home three years ago, the city I had fallen in love with. I was spending quality time relaxing in the park, dining in fine restaurants and museum hunting. I was also there for something much bigger, a job interview.

Riding the subway to Union Square, the possible location of my internship, I dreamed of what it would be like to live and work in New York. I went to the interview with my head high, and left with a feeling of optimism. I was going to live that dream after all. Set to begin my work experience later this year, I took a look around the trendy hangout spots in lower Manhattan and smiled.

When the interview was over, and my future steps were certain, my brother and I decided to walk across the beautiful Brooklyn Bridge. It was a wonderful day. We stopped at the center to gaze back at the skyline that defined where we were, and the towers that gave courage to people like me. The view was breathtaking. We talked about life in the city and discussed my internship. We were excited about being New Yorkers together.

When I flew out of New York on September 4th, I secretly said, "I'll see you again soon." I did not know that I would never see that skyline again. And when those towers fell and the destruction began, just twenty blocks south of where I smiled that day, I cried.

"It's scary," says fourth year Criminal Justice major, Kelly Daniels, who hopes to pursue a career in the FBI. "Working in law enforcement has always been a challenging goal for me, but not like this. I never thought of it this way," she says of the new investigations surrounding terrorism.

"I now just want to move to a safe place, like Alaska," says Jennie Nicholas, a fourth year Social Work major, when asked about her hopes for a career of helping inner-city children. But what defines safe these days? What defines normalcy? Why should we change our goals and aspirations?

These are some of the new questions many of us are faced with. We leave the somewhat secure walls of college life and enter the workplace that has taken on a new meaning for everyone. "We will get back on track, perhaps better than before," adds Daniels. "It is a devastating thing to deal with, but I try to look at the courageous opportunities it opened up in the criminal justice system. I feel timid, but excited at the same time. I want to graduate and get involved with some of the work that surrounds our new normalcy."

Despite the events that took place on September 11th, I believe most students will continue to move forward to achieve their dreams. They will persist in making their futures certain. As for myself, a fourth year Professional & Technical Communication major, the future still remains. I will begin my dream this year, making every effort to enjoy it.

Little bits of caring, continued from page 2

Afier proudly taking the CLA group on an extensive tour of the 103-year-old wooden school, Tamra and Angelica talked about their expectations for the volunteer program. "I'm so happy to work with older people, especially real college students, and to learn more about what I love," Angelica said. She and Tamra told the volunteers about their interests ranging from poetry to mathematics.

Another goal of the School #36 Program is to bring a world of possibilities to the minds of these children. The program stresses that if there's a will, there's a way. CLA volunteers are proud to serve as positive role models.

Anthony Bishop, a fourth year Multi-disciplinary Studies student, was delighted to work with a few writing and reading oriented students to teach them the alphabet in sign language. "All I know is that both the kids and I gained experiences from our sessions," he says. He was especially happy to see that the students actually practiced the sign language they had learned before each session.

For those interested in reaching out to these children, contact Susan Phillips at dspgl@rit.edu for more information. Your little bit of care will truly go a long way.