On a Personal Note: Liberal Arts Student Profile

Playing the Writing Game
by Carly Gioia

People give me a flabbergasted look when I mention that I go to RIT to become a writer. They wonder why I would go to a technical school rather than a liberal arts college. To understand the reasoning behind my decision, one must first understand the kind of person I am.

I was born with cerebral palsy (CP), a disability that hinders my balance, mobility, and coordination due to an insufficient amount of oxygen to my brain during birth. As a result, things that you might consider insignificant (like walking down the quarter mile) require a lot more energy and concentration for me. I had to work harder than most people to get where I am today.

It is because of my disability that I have grown accustomed to facing challenges head-on. This is why I chose RIT. To choose anything different would be too easy for me.

My Professional &Technical Communication (PTC) major will enable me to become a writer, and I will get far more out of this degree program than I would at a typical liberal arts college.

Although this was my initial motivation for entering COLA, there is a particular factor that led me to choose PTC. In addition to relishing a challenge because of CP, I am driven by my disability to improve upon the skills I have and compensate for the skills that I lack. Being in COLA allows me to apply this tactic to writing.

Writing is a perfect match for me because it is a challenge. Anyone can write the words for a book, but it takes a true writer to make those words meaningful. When you read a good book, it is nothing less than perfection. To reach this level of perfection is as much a game as anything else.

Writing became my game. I knew that RIT was the best choice for me because COLA incorporates a technical aspect to liberal arts. Aside from being a good writer, you also have to be tech-savvy in today’s market. The most successful writers know how to market their work through different media and publishing techniques; they have the skills to communicate through new technologies. Since writing is becoming more technical than ever, a technical education is very important.

I’m confident I will be more prepared for the writing field with a PTC degree because I will be more familiar with these new technologies. In much the same way that technology has brought writing into the 21st century, COLA is bringing liberal arts into the future.

The Last Brick compiled by Kayla Zerby

Professional & Technical Communication
Glenn Bernius (‘04) is Program Director for the Community Counseling Service Co. and is presently living in Amityville, NY.

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Psychology
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Social Work
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