Reflections of a Second Semester Senior

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CRUSADER OPINIONS STAFF

When I came to Holy Cross in August of last semester, some deep-seated fearing that senior year was age was away. Actually I didn’t even think of being a senior; first I had to get through freshman year. Sophomore year you tend to forget about the passing of time as you comfortably settle into the routine—there is no more novelty. You finally feel a sense of belonging since you’ve found your group of friends. At the end of junior year it actually hits you, especially when you start telling those prodding relatives, who are forever curious about your academic status, that you are entering your last year in college. Suddenly you feel really old, yet you don’t understand how every other college student seems to be more intimidating than your own.

As I look around at my fellow classmates, I notice the array of responses and attitudes as we enter our last semester. Some can’t wait to postpone the inevitable, probably all the more so since the recent job market has been so terri-

We are ignorant of the specific consequences of our actions. Perhaps most significantly, Holy Cross students are unsure of where to turn when they do find themselves in trouble. In an effort to remedy this unnecessary and often detrimental lack of knowledge, Joe Ficocello ’02 created the Judicial Advisor Center. He was motivated to start the Judicial Advisor Center for several different reasons. The first was to provide the Holy Cross community with informed students who could advise other students about the process. The second was focused on community development and the promotion of judicial awareness on campus. Essentially, all colleges use disciplinary committees to enforce regulations. However, very few schools have student-run groups specifically designed to be sources of support throughout the judicial process.

The Judicial Advisor Center consists of 10 trained student advisors who are knowledgeable and familiar with the Community Standards rules. The group attended a conference and training session at North- eastern University in the fall. Furthermore, in November, the 10 advisors received on-site training at Holy Cross. Similar to many other groups on campus, the Judicial Advisor Center provides a unique perspective on the judicial process. Telling your favorite professor you were caught with a ton of alcohol in your room isn’t exactly the impression most students want to make. Freshmen, in particular, may not be familiar enough with the faculty to find such a resource. Thus, turning to a peer for help in such matters may be a more comfortable option. As long as students are assured that Judicial Advisors are responsible for “maintaining confidentiality regarding sensitive issues that would involve the care and protection of individual rights and privileges.” Perhaps they have been through a similar experience and can offer a unique perspective on the situation. It may be easier to express your fears to a fellow student as well. A student advisor can sympathize with the potential embarrassment of getting into trouble or the possible anger of parents. Yet, at the same time, Judicial Advisors will not “help students ‘beat’ the system,” or “instruct students to suppress facts in a case.” While the advisors are a clear source of guidance for students, they are committed to the truth. Thus the Judicial Advisors if successful, will reduce drastically the fear associated with judicial proceedings. Knowing that you can turn to one of your peers for guidance during this troubling time may make it a less distressing experience.

Ficocello’s initiative is a definite advancement of the Holy Cross judicial process. Providing students with a peer judicial resource clearly further Holy Cross’ dedication to being “men and women for others.” Although the success of this group remains to be seen, I am confident that they truly will improve the quality of life here at Holy Cross. The Judicial Advisor Center is located in Hogan 106. For more information, or to request an advisor, contact Joe Ficocello ’02 student director, extension 4557.

Promoting Judicial Awareness at Holy Cross

BY MEGHAN SWANSON
OPINIONS STAFF

Reflect on every moment, even the exams, the hard work, the times you stay up all night writing a seemingly pointless paper. Life doesn’t really change. You can’t coast through life just like you can’t coast through college. Everything you want to do will require time and effort. Whatever jobs we eventually will have after graduation will demand of us what professors have demanded of us here—excellence.

However, although there is always work, you can change your perspective from rushing to a conclusion, merely getting things done, to enjoying everything along the way. There is something to be embraced in every single day. Right now, it is the college experience. There are ups and downs, but when it comes down to it— we will truly treasure all our memories made here in Worcester, Massachusetts. As I was leaving up to Worcester for the final semester and pulled into the gates, I realized that it would be the last time I would have that thrill of getting ready for the new school year, buying supplies, getting into the swing of things after four weeks of break. Seriously, the adult world looks at us with a tinge of jealousy when we announce that we have a month off. But those days will soon be over as graduation fast approaches. Right now it’s the home stretch— those last few months before we leave Holy Cross forever. Father Nelligan, whom most of us have probably either met or know, doesn’t lose that perspective. Graduation day will come—but let us truly live and embrace every day before it.

The Crusader Opinions section is looking for new writers and a cartoonist!! If you are interested, please email Meghan Swanson at meswanso@holycross.edu