

## LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON

Karen Cooper '03G\*  
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Daniel and Paul Shea are Rivier's first father-son duo to earn nursing degrees in the same year.



PHOTO BY KATHY MACKAY

Paul Shea, Class of 2007 graduate, isn't just talking when he says he comes from a caring and service-oriented family. The Shea family of Pelham, N.H. has a track record in the healthcare industry to prove it. His mom, Lynne, has worked at Lowell General Hospital for 27 years, serving as a respiratory therapist and most recently as a sleep lab technician. She's currently enrolled in a nursing program at Northern Essex Community College. His aunt, Lori Chisholm, graduated from Rivier last year with an associate degree in nursing. She has been employed by Southern New Hampshire Medical Center and is currently working as a staff RN at the Huntington, a life care retirement community in Nashua.

Paul and his dad, Daniel, are no exception. They not only share the Shea family desire to help others and make a difference, they also share the honor of graduating together as members of Rivier's Class of 2007. Paul earned a bachelor's in nursing and his dad completed his associate degree, making them the first father-son duo to earn their nursing degrees during the same year.

For Paul, Rivier was a natural choice. A graduate of Bishop-Guertin in Nashua, he knew he wanted to attend a Catholic college and Rivier was right in his backyard, so to speak. Rivier's mission fit with his personal beliefs and the opportunities the College affords to serve the community were a powerful draw. As a high school student planning ahead for college, Paul felt it was important to set a professional goal early in his academic career. He wanted an in-demand profession that allowed him to reach out and help others. Nursing, like Rivier, was a natural fit.

Daniel, an environmental health and safety manager for MKS Instruments, Inc. in Wilmington, Mass., has spent 28 years in the field, managing compliance efforts for OSHA and EPA regulations. He manages and trains the first aid team, and as a certified Red Cross instructor he conducts the organization's first aid, CPR, and Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training. He pursued his nursing degree not with the intent to change careers, but more to modify his future plans. He is interested in occupational health nursing, providing emergency and preventive care and focusing on safety and ergonomics.

While Paul and his dad didn't share any classes together, they did bump into each on campus from time to time. Balancing their academic programs and other commitments kept them pretty busy, but they often found time to "talk shop" over dinner and share anecdotes of their Rivier experiences. Both are involved as adult leaders with the Boy Scouts of America's Troop 25 of Pelham, another activity that

strengthens their bond. Daniel admits that he was concerned that his son might resent his father following in his footsteps at Rivier, but those concerns turned out to be completely unfounded. “Paul has made a name for himself at Rivier. He was definitely not Dan Shea’s son. I was Paul Shea’s dad. He was the star,” says this proud father.

What’s next for this father-son team? After finishing a second bachelor’s degree in psychology during the summer, Paul landed his first job as an RN at Lowell General Hospital. He plans to go on to graduate school and would eventually like to work as a nurse anesthetist in a critical care setting. Daniel would like to get an occupational health program started at his company and may even pursue a master’s degree in this specialty. He would also like to work part-time at a hospital to continue the learning experience he started during his Rivier clinicals. Regardless of where their careers take them, it’s clear this father and son have a common bond they will enjoy sharing for years to come. ■

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\* **KAREN COOPER** is the Executive Director of Development and Marketing in Rivier College. As a Senior Staff member, she directs the Office of Development & Alumni Relations and the Office of Marketing & Communications. Karen has been with the College for seven years. Cooper is a graduate of Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts, with a degree in English and Psychology. She earned her M.B.A. with a marketing concentration from Rivier in 2003. In addition to her responsibilities at Rivier, she serves on the steering committee for IUGO, an organization for young professionals in the Greater Nashua area, and was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts.