

MEET A STUDENT: DONNA McDONOUGH

Jennifer J. Liskow'02G*
(From: *Rivier Today*, Fall 2009)

"I want (my children and grandchildren) to know that anyone can do anything at any age," — **Donna McDonough**, evening student, B.A. Human Development, minor in social work



(PHOTO BY JENNIFER LISKOW)

When people ask Donna McDonough why she would go back to school at age 60, she responds with a question of her own: "Why wouldn't I?"

"I decided to go back to school on a whim," she says. "I always wanted to go to college, but I was part of a generation where it wasn't as important for women to go to school as it was for a man." She began working as soon as she graduated high school, then got married and started a family. "I always managed to work my way into a good job," she says. "The only thing holding me back was not having a degree."

Donna started with her associate degree at a community college, then decided to pursue a bachelor's at Rivier. Donna sees earning her degree as a way she can be a role model for her children and grandchildren. "I want them to know that anyone can do anything at any age," she says.

Donna's classes also help her in her job. As a job placement specialist for Easter Seals, she helps veterans and people with documented disabilities find employment. She enjoys the challenge of running both the Nashua and Manchester Easter Seals offices. "I like working in two different cities—sometimes it's a balancing act," she says.

Donna also enjoys having classes with students of different ages; she says people contribute ideas from many different perspectives. Donna says what she's learning often confirms her gut instincts. "When you've done the work before going to school, you'll cover something in class and think, oh, good, I did that right," she says.

* **JENNIFER LISKOW** is Rivier's Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications and teaches in the College's Professional Communications program. Jennifer earned her bachelor's in English and communications from Notre Dame College in Manchester, N.H. in 1996. In 2002, she completed her master's in writing and literature at Rivier. She began writing in junior high school; since then, she has had poems, short stories, features and essays published. She serves on the Board of Directors for NH Roller Derby, the state's first competitive flat-track roller derby league.