

## MEET A STUDENT: COLLEEN VAN CURA '09

**Jennifer J. Liskow'02G\***  
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PHOTO BY JODIE ANDRUSKEVICH

**Colleen Van Cura** says that the first time she visited Rivier, she immediately got the feeling she should attend. “It had that homey, family feeling. That’s very important to me,” she says.

Colleen came to Rivier to play volleyball and started off as a business major. Halfway through her freshman year, she changed her major to elementary education. “I’d see the kids at the Early Childhood Center and think, that looks like fun,” she says. “I knew I liked working with children.”

In seventh grade, Colleen started volunteering at a daycare near her home in East Lyme, Connecticut; when she turned 16, she began working there. Though she enjoys working with young children, she chose elementary education “because it offers the chance to deal with a wider age range than early childhood ed—there are more opportunities to teach in public schools.”

One of Colleen’s favorite classes so far has been Art in the Elementary School. For an assignment that called for students to recreate a character from a children’s book, Colleen sculpted the mouse from *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie*. “I liked that it was hands-on and we got to make something,” she says. “We also got to develop lesson plans for an art project.”

Colleen has spent time in classrooms at Library Street School in Hudson and Nashua’s Elm Street Middle School. During the fall semester, she worked with students in fourth and sixth grade classrooms at Hollis Upper Elementary. “I like being at a smaller school in a smaller town,” she says. ■

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