

# Ohl-Gigliotti to write her own 'tutorial'

By Barbora Batokova  
Editor in Chief

And you thought only seniors had to write tutorials. Starting in March, Christine Ohl-Gigliotti, Chatham College Residence Life Director, will become a full time student to write one of her own. Only for her, it's called a dissertation.

At the end of February, Ohl-Gigliotti will leave her position at Chatham to complete her doctorate at Syracuse University, N.Y., where she enrolled in 2000. She finished classes in 2003 and started working on her dissertation.

Since the beginning of the semester, Ohl-Gigliotti has been working part-time on Tuesdays and Thursdays and some of her responsibilities were taken over by Graduate Resident Directors. The residence life office is fully functional, Ohl-Gigliotti said.

Her dissertation "How Parents/Guardians of First-Generation College Students Experience Their Child's College Education" explores the experience of 12 parents with children in their first year of college.

Ohl-Gigliotti is primarily interested in how the parents talk about their child being in college, how their relationship with their child is impacted, and what role they take in their child's college experience. Ohl-Gigliotti hopes to finish writing this summer.

"It has nothing to do with Chatham," she said about leaving a job she loves. "It was a hard decision to make."

Ohl-Gigliotti was faced with a dilemma when she had to choose between her job and the completion of her degree. However, she said that her family, which has been very supportive of her decision, also played a major role.



Photo by Timothy Hall

**Christine Ohl-Gigliotti, director of Residence Life, will quit her job by the end of February to become a full-time student again to write her dissertation and complete her doctorate at the Syracuse University, N.Y.**

Her mother, a four-year cancer survivor, has recently begun another treatment of chemotherapy and Ohl-Gigliotti hopes to spend more time with her and help her dad with driving her mother to weekly chemo sessions. "I moved 'back home' to Pittsburgh in 2003 because of my mom's cancer diagnosis. Continuing to support her in this way is important to me," Ohl-Gigliotti said.

Furthermore, Ohl-Gigliotti hopes to start her own family, which is something she wouldn't be able to do while balancing her career and completion of her dissertation, she said.

When asked about what she will miss the most about Chatham, Ohl-Gigliotti didn't hesitate to name the

students first. "I will miss the students coming in here and talking to me," she said. She feels very close to the senior class: "There is nothing more fulfilling than to watch students go through their four years at Chatham," she said. (Ohl-Gigliotti started working at Chatham in October 2003.)

For senior and Rea House Resident Assistant Nicole Hagan, Ohl-Gigliotti has been one of the most important people in her Chatham career. "She has been my work study supervisor for three years, my R.A. supervisor for two years, and she has been a very valuable support system to me personally," said Hagan.

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# WANTED: Independent, brave movie heroines

By Kara Voorhees  
Staff Writer

Maureen Fechik is a Visual Arts major concentrating in Electronic Media and Photography at Chatham College. She is in her junior year. Fechik would like to see stronger women in the movies she sees. "Women are portrayed in stereotypes," Fechik said. "There are no strong images as compared to men."

Fechik is not alone in her opinion. Susan Berger, a senior, said "Women are portrayed like models. And if they're successful they should be grateful. They are expected to work twice as hard as men."

Fechik talked about how the strength in women in current films is derived from other people in the film, such as a love interest or relationship. She says this doesn't do women justice. Women's roles are not diversified. And Hollywood churns out 'chick flicks' by the month.

There are many examples in films in the past several years of this underestimation of women. Randy Shaw, a journalist for *BeyondChron*, San Francisco's Alternative Online Daily News, said recently in a Jan. 2 article that the "recent batch of Hollywood's big-budget holiday films should embarrass a community that prides itself on its 'feminist' ideals."

Felicia Davis, a junior, talked about how Halle Berry still looked very attractive even after supposedly dumbing down her appearance for *Monster's Ball*. "It's always beauty over brains," she said.

Lindsay Lohan is continually prancing around in some new vehicle to further overexpose her freckles. Angelina Jolie went from carrying intensive military level weaponry whilst running her own hit man operation against her husband in *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* to playing a dissatisfied and desperate housewife under Matt Damon's disregarding rule in *The Good Shepherd*. Talia Shire's crucial role as Rocky's wife was cut entirely from the saga's latest installment. And the Bond legacy of ornamenting 007's arm with yet another pretty face continues.

Was there ever a Bond girl that wasn't replaceable? One that was loved? Respected? Did we ever see a Bond girl that is intelligent and brave and dynamic? Bond girls are not mothers. They are not career women. They are not history makers. They do not need to be, because another one will be along to take their place as a slim, full-breasted machine to serve some purpose on the 007 agenda.

Dr. Thomas J. Hershberger, professor of psychology, disagrees. He said the portrayal of women varies a lot on the genre and that many movies show a strong, even capable women.

Look at Nicole Kidman, who won the Oscar for her role as Virginia Woolfe in *The Hours* in which she wore a facial prosthetic to emulate Wolfe's bony, protrusive nose. In *Monster* Charlize Theron wore padding around her eyes to create an aging puffiness, concentrated make up in imitation of the disease melasma and two sets of false teeth to be real life prostitute and serial killer, Aileen Wournos.

However, Hershberger agrees that there was a time when women were seen in film "for the longest period of time as weak, compliant, subservient dilettantes and sex objects." He said that over the last 30 years a trend has been set to provide more female roles that feature competence and strength. "It has changed dramatically beginning in the late 60s when changes began to occur, due partially to the Feminist Movement."

Recently Jennifer Connelly starred in the violent yet epic *Blood Diamond*. As a one man journalism band, armed with a camera and various weighty equipment as well as her own luggage, she treks through the wilds of Africa's war torn Sierra Leone, bent on exposing the real story behind the bloody diamond cartels responsible for the brutal deaths and tortures of children. She is not wearing make up, her clothes are practical, her boots heavy and laced, her hair unwashed, wavy and pulled back.

She is seeking truth, risking her life and following honed instincts. She is diligent and smart. She is brave. She is soulful. She is a woman.

# A usual Chatham morning for unusual guests

By Alese Underwood  
Staff Writer

They are seen very sparingly across the Chatham campus. They come in every size and shape. No, it's not the Friday night stiletto, it is the male visitor on Cougar territory.

"This is like Disney Land!" said Gerard Angeli, a sophomore at the University of Pittsburgh, while examining the floating flowers in the glass bowl vases at every table in the Anderson Dining Hall.

On Jan. 7, four Pitt male friends, Colin Sublette, Will Matson, Tim Schwartz, and Angeli, stayed over night at Chatham and found themselves pleasantly entertained the next morning by what Chatham had to offer.

The guests enjoyed a smorgasbord of Chatham's finest all-you-care-to-eat brunch cuisine. Following the meal, they were given a scenic tour of the campus, starting with the rock wall.

They were belayed by sophomore Camille Herby as one by one, the guests scaled the climbing wall located in Chatham's Athletic and Fitness Center.

"It was great to see the wall get so much use, and to see people outside of Chatham really appreciating our campus," Herby said. Matson was especially impressed with the AFC's



Photo by Alese Underwood

**Chatham sophomore Camille Herby took two Pitt sophomores Will Matson and Gerard Angeli to climb the rock wall as part of their "morning Chatham tour" on Jan. 7.**

facilities. "Your gym is just as capable as Pitt's facilities, perhaps even more so. You have a hot tub and sauna, come on!"

The visit continued with a tour of the Mellon Center. Upon hearing stories of ghostly encounters in the house, the guests were eager to enter the basement to hunt for the paranormal — but no such luck.

"I love the old buildings there. The only cool thing Pitt has is the Cathedral of Learning, and even that is "look but don't touch."

Whereas at Chatham you can walk all around Mellon's old house," Matson added.

Laughlin House was next. From the eerie laundry room to a fascinating quad, the guests were nothing short of impressed.

"Chatham has some of the nicest architecture that is currently still kept up pretty well. It is very solitary, but still not far from the center of Pittsburgh. The campus is very quiet and seems to have an aura of reflection on myself and most likely the students," Angeli said.

While touring Rea and Fickes, they were surprised by how kind and polite the Chatham community was to them. Without even an introduction, the residents welcomed them to check out what a typical Chatham dorm is like. The guests commented on how all the residence halls and dorms had such an "at home" sort of vibe due to the furniture, fireplaces, mantles and most of all the pianos in every building.

"I like Chatham because it has all the benefits of a modern college with few of the downsides. You get to know the professors and people in your classes, rather than just being another face in the crowd. The campus is big enough to feel like you're getting away, but small enough to feel like you can make it your home. Pitt doesn't really afford that, especially because it's a 'city school.' I also like Chatham, because there are lots of beautiful and interesting girls there. A typical Pitt girl isn't like that...there's something special about the people that go to Chatham," Matson said.

The remnants of the excursion even stemmed to the internet. "If I was Thoreau, then Chatham would be my Walden," Angeli said the next evening while creating a facebook group entitled "Chatham is Eden and I am the Serpent."

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