



Chamberlin

Legally blind, but with strong insight

As a history major with a concentration in the Renaissance and Middle Ages, **Daniel Chamberlin '08** naturally reads a lot about those eras — and in a way he's making history himself. Chamberlin has been legally blind since birth, and he can't read Braille — "to save my life," he adds. But with help from his Roanoke College professors, the Virginia Department of the Blind and Disabled and long hours spent poring over large-print texts as well as utilizing a camera attached to his laptop computer, he keeps up with his reading — truly one of his favorite College pursuits.

"To be perfectly honest, it's not a big deal because I've always loved reading," Chamberlin says. "I've been in contact with the disabilities advisors, who were really helpful to me, but I've had this for so long that I've never needed to use extended hours." Chamberlin's professors let him sit at the front of the classroom, loan him slide shows and are completely available for him to talk to about everything — "not just about being blind," he says.

A self-described "military brat," Chamberlin was born in San Diego, has moved around a lot and graduated from high school in Stafford, Virginia. At Roanoke, he uses the Maroon Express, a campus activities bus, to take him to town on weekends so he can get a break from studies. In the fall, he started a campus "anime club," which brings together fans of Japanese animation. Also, for the last two years, Chamberlin has been recognized for his achievements with a scholarship from the Fredericksburg area chapter of the National Federation of the Blind of Virginia. But it's all in a day's work for a person who shrugs and says, "It's not a big deal for me."

Poet puts her words to work

Initially dismayed at picking Langston Hughes' name out of a hat when she was in elementary school, **Lauren Harrison's '07** now sees it as serendipity for she is a poet. And this year, she will be published when three of her poems will be included in a new Doubleday anthology, *What I Know is Me*. Still, she takes nothing for granted, forever indulging in a work ethic that spins circles around most people.

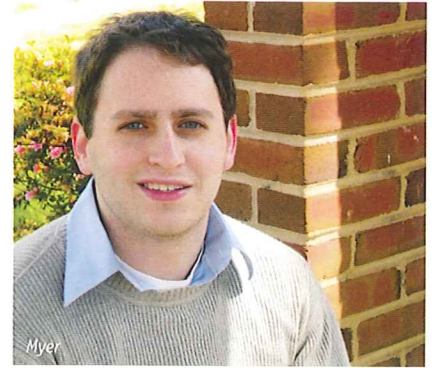
While attending the Washington Semester this past fall, Harrison interned with the quarterly online poetry magazine *Beltway Poetry Quarterly* as well as working with the editor of Web Del Sol, the largest online publishing company in the world.



Harrison

She also took advantage of contacts through those internships to do an independent study and worked with **Michael Knipp '03**, founder of Byline Communications, turning out reviews and interviews of recording artists.

"My mom read to me while I was still in the womb," she says of her early and long-lasting love of language. In second grade, she dressed up as Langston Hughes and read his poetry "with such conviction. I was amazed that words could do that to people," she says. Harrison will further her word skills next fall when she attends the Columbia University School of Journalism on the Pulitzer-Moore Fellowship, which covers full tuition, room, board and expenses. She even recently won first place at a poetry slam at the Association of Writing Programs conference in Atlanta. "That's what the writing life gives you — choices," she says. "And that's what's great about attending a liberal arts school. I'm learning so much more. I want to own my own publishing company one day. I want to teach and to travel. I like the freedom of being able to decide as I go."



Humorous math major and mensch

When **David Myer '07** needs a break, he takes to the stage. As a founding member of the local comedy improv group Critical Miss, the math major says there are a lot of places for creativity in his subject, but he really enjoys being up on stage and entertaining people.

"If I can reach people in that way, I feel I have accomplished something special," says the senior from Boynton Beach, Florida. But Myer reaches people in other ways as well. Academics have always meant a lot to him, and as the scholarship chair of his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi, he organizes study sessions and study halls for its members.

"I'm proud to note that Pi Kap has the highest aggregate GPA of any Greek organization on campus," he says. Myer also does peer tutoring in math and has developed what he calls a "dedicated group" that seeks him out whenever he is in the tutoring center. During the spring of 2006, he became president of the math honors fraternity on campus, Pi Mu Epsilon. He also has been president of Hillel, the Jewish student organization on campus, since his freshman year and delights in spreading the cultural word about his faith. An annual event that he enjoys in particular is "Shabbat and Szechwan." It happens on a Friday night, when Hillel conducts an English-oriented learning service, and then all attendees go out for Chinese food. "It's a great opportunity for people to learn more, and we're open for questions," he says. Myer was also recently inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa, the national leadership fraternity, and last summer was a Summer Scholar.

"I looked at voting theory and the different methods of ranking things as a whole," he says. "By the end of the summer, I came up with a new ranking system for college football." Myer will be attending grad school at Clemson University.