

Mark Robinson

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Experience

Capital News Service, Richmond, Va. Jan. 2013 – Present

Correspondent

- Cover the Virginia General Assembly's 2013 session for a wire service serving more than 90 news organizations across the state.
- Rewrite print stories for a two minute radio segment recorded on a weekly basis.

Global Post, Gaborone, Botswana Sept. 2012 – Nov. 2012

Freelance Contributor and Copy Editor

- Covered hard news stories relating to health and business.
- Photographed stories covered, including visit of the Nigerian President.
- Copy edited about three dozen stories for publication each week.

ChildFund International, Richmond, Va. May 2012 – July 2012

Global Communications Intern

- Edited raw footage into a feature video for social media platforms using Adobe Premiere.
- Assisted with social media research, particularly related to blogging and podcasting.

The Commonwealth Times, Richmond, Va. Aug. 2010 – Present

Managing Editor (May 2012 – Present)

- Manage about a dozen staff members at Virginia Commonwealth University's semi-weekly student newspaper.
- Edit and proofread the paper's content and oversee design for each of the week's two issues.

Assistant News Editor (Dec. 2011 – May 2012)

- Covered hard news and breaking news stories related to the VCU community for publication.
- Conceived story ideas for each of the week's two issues.

Assistant Arts and Culture Editor (May 2011 – Dec. 2011)

- Wrote feature stories and reviews related to the VCU community for print and Web publication.
- Edited content in the arts and culture section for each of the week's two issues.

Staff Writer (Aug. 2010 – May 2011)

- Worked with an editor to complete weekly assignments, primarily in the arts and culture section.
-

Skills

- Proficient with Adobe Creative Suite 6, including Premiere, Photoshop and InDesign.
 - Experience photographing and shooting video with DSLR digital cameras.
 - Comfortable using social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, WordPress and Tumblr.
-

Education

Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, Va.

- Bachelor of Science in mass communications with a concentration in print journalism
- Cumulative GPA: 4.0
- Anticipated graduation: May 2014



NEWS

Spin the Bottle

What happens after you drop that glass into the recycling bin?

By Mark Robinson | Photos by Amber-Lynn Taber

That bottle you just tossed into your green recycling bin won't be there long. For that matter, it won't even be a bottle for long.

First it'll get picked up. Every other week, a fleet of 35 green trucks rumble through the streets of Henrico County to collect the curbside recycling of nearly 85,000 homes. A worker jumps out of the green truck, grabs the bin in front of your home and tosses the unsorted contents into the back of the truck.

The trucks belong to Tidewater Fibre Corp., a Chesapeake-based recycling company with three plants in Virginia including one in Chester. Since 2007, they've contracted with Central Virginia Waste Management to handle curbside recycling pickup for the Richmond metro area.

The agreement cost CVWMA \$5.7 million in 2012, according to the authority's annual report. Each locality pays a portion of that bill based on the number of households participating in the curbside pickup program. In Henrico, one in five households puts a green bin out.

From the curb, the recycling truck transports the recyclables to Tidewater Fibre's Material Recovery Facility in Chester, where sorting begins.

On a chilly day in February, Jeff Randazzo, the plant's general manager, strolls into the wind toward the Material Recovery Facility and jokes about the balmy winter weather down South. Randazzo spent 20 years in the waste-management business in New York City before moving to Virginia to take over the Chester plant.

He's trailed by a dingy white dog about the size of an ottoman – an old hunting dog by the looks of it, he guesses. A few weeks ago it showed up with no tags. It has no name. "If you catch him, you can take him," Randazzo jokes, nearing the Material Recovery Facility. At the entrance, the dog retreats. Too loud.

Randazzo raises his voice over the shrilling alarms of trucks as they back in to dump curbside refuse at the front of the facility – the tipping floor. Between 40 and 50 truckloads get dumped at the facility each day.

Conveyor belts drone in the 60,000-square-foot building. Glass smashes. Thousands of aluminum cans get crushed into 1,500-pound bales, ready for forklifts to stack two or three high to await shipment. Workers in long sleeves and highlighter-yellow vests pluck plastics from the conveyor belt. Others operate machinery and check the bales for trash scraps. Ear plugs and safety glasses all around.

Up to 3,500 tons of curbside materials are processed each month, Randazzo says. Industrial fans circulate the air and add to the noise. It smells of machinery, not garbage.

Randazzo walks through the tipping floor past a mountain of debris more than five times his height. The unsorted materials are spilling out of the mouth of the building. They won't be there for long.

The Chester plant uses a single-stream recycling system, meaning that all the materials you throw in your bin get shoved onto the conveyor belt together, unsorted. A worker does this with a bulldozer, initiating a fast-paced process.

Cardboard and plastic bags get picked out first. An air stream separates newspapers and junk mail from the heavier materials – Randazzo calls them "rigids" – which fall onto another belt below and go to the other side of the plant. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, more than 70 percent of newspapers and junk mail were recycled in 2010.

But glass – like that bottle you tossed – is more troublesome. It has one of the worst recycling rates of any recyclable material. In 2010 only 33 percent of newly manufactured glass containers were recycled. The other two-thirds got tossed into the trash.

It's not that there's no use for recycled glass, or cullet, says Beth Peery, a spokesperson for the world's largest bottle-maker, Owens-Illinois; for example, her company's products are composed of 36 percent recycled glass. Peery says her company would prefer that percentage to be higher, but can't find enough used glass.

An industrywide goal to increase that number to 50 percent is likely out of reach unless glass recycling is further incentivized by states,



she adds.

Ten states in the U.S. have a "bottle bill," a law that forces consumers to pay a small deposit – usually 5 or 10 cents – per bottle that can be redeemed when the bottle is turned in after use. The financial incentive seems to work: Michigan, which has the highest deposit at 10 cents, claims a 97 percent glass-recycling rate. Eighty percent of O-I's recycled glass comes from those 10 states, Peery points out.

Virginia is not one of the 10. Attempts to pass a bottle bill in Virginia failed multiple times in the '90s. The idea seems dead in the state, at least for now. No bills concerning glass recycling were proposed during the 2013 Virginia General Assembly session.

Back at the Chester plant, your glass bottle and others like it are swiftly separated from plastics and aluminum and steel cans.

The glass containers are shattered to bits by a trommel, which works kind of like the spin cycle on a front-loading clothes washer. Added to the plant in 2011, the trommel is a giant spinning cylinder built of a metal screen with three quarter inch holes in it. When your bottle enters the cylinder, it clatters and bounces and spins, shattering again and again. Eventually its shards shower through the screen into a bin of green, blue, brown and clear pieces.

The excess – bottle caps, product labels, corks – spin out of the trommel and fall into separate containers. Glass recycling generates the most excess, Randazzo says as he walks out of a garage door on the side of the building into fresh air. A pile of cullet is steaming in the cold, waiting for shipment. Stray pieces crunch under his boots. Without gloves, he picks up a handful of cullet and lets the shards slip through his fingers like sand.

"When they take it from here, it'll be separated by color – clear, green and brown – and made into a new bottle," he says.

People living in the Richmond metro area recycled more than 13,000 tons of glass in 2011, according to the annual recycling-rate report published by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. The 2012 results are currently being collected and should be released by May.



Workers sort items on a conveyor belt, looking for unusable trash.

While it's true that most of the glass from the Chester plant goes to making new bottles, it's likely that some of the cullet from your bottle is going to alternative uses, said Steve Coe of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

North Carolina-based Precision Recycling Industries LLC owns a Chester plant that takes glass that is crushed too small to be color-separated and used in new bottles. It grinds the fine glass down even more to use as a sandblaster for cleaning naval ships and bridges in Hampton Roads.

Bill Richardson, who owns Precision Recycling, used to run the TFC plant in Chester before Randazzo. The largest problem plaguing the glass-recycling business, he said, is the inability of most single-stream recycling plants to properly clean the glass.

"The glass that comes out the back end is pretty nasty stuff," he said. "It ends up, many times, in landfills. ... They pick it up from the curb. They crush it and it's mixed in with a bunch of trash and they bury it."

If recycled glass is ending up in landfills, it isn't happening in central Virginia, says Kim Hines, executive director of Central Virginia Waste Management.

"There's just that perception that it's going to the landfill and it isn't being recycled," she acknowledges.

In the past, many landfills in the area did use glass as an alternative landfill cover, which was perfectly legal; the state mandates that counties recycle 25 percent of their waste stream, so many used recycled glass as landfill cover. The Department of Environmental Quality approved it as an alternative use for the material and it counted toward the threshold. But no landfills in central Virginia use it anymore.

"I don't have any approvals for using glass as a cover," said Jason Miller, land protection and revitalization program manager for the Piedmont regions of the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality. "In the Piedmont region ... I don't have anybody using it."

Now what glass comes into the recycling stream is getting put to other uses. According to the EPA, 10 percent of recycled glass in 2010 was used in floor tiles, countertops, fiberglass, stucco, blast cleaners and asphalt filler in roads. The other 90 percent of recycled glass was made into new glass containers.

Standing by the loading bays on the opposite side of the Material Recovery Facility in Chester, Randazzo says the plant works only with companies that recycle its glass into new bottles. "If you go to a restaurant or a bar and you order a Heineken or a soda in a bottle," he says, "they make those bottles from recycled glass."

Trailed again by the nameless dog, Randazzo circles around to the front of the building. Recycling trucks rumble in and processed materials ship out.

Reflective BevCon, a company in North Carolina, takes the Chester plant's cullet, cleans it and sorts it by color. From there, the glass will head off to one of the large glass container producing companies in the world: Owens-Illinois, based in Ohio, or Saint-Gobain Glass, a French company whose North American operations run out of Pennsylvania.

The cullet from your bottle can be included in a batch of new glass within 24 hours once it arrives at an Owens-Illinois plant, says Bob Hippert, an operational capabilities manager with the company.

Once there, the cullet from your bottle is added to a batch of silica sand,

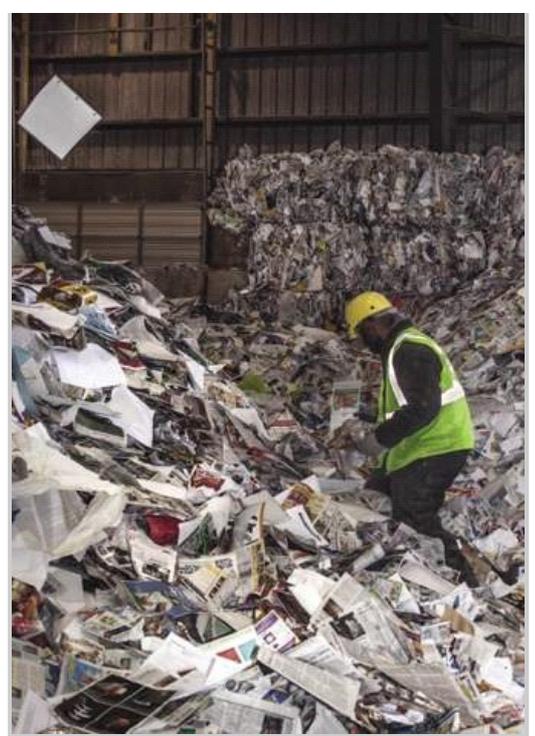


soda ash and limestone and melted down to make new glass containers. It's heated at around 2,800 degrees Fahrenheit for as long as 36 hours in a large furnace, Hippert says: "Think of it as a molten glass tank that's always full. We're always batching in on one end and pulling on the other."

The molten glass travels through a refiner that allows air bubbles to escape before it is formed into a bottle using compressed air. The new bottles cool and O-I inspects them before they ship out to beverage companies around the world.

According to the Glass Packaging Institute, a trade group representing bottle manufacturers, your bottle can go from your recycling bin to a store shelf in 30 days.

Ready for you to buy it, empty it, and drop it into the bin. Again. ■



A worker wades through used newspaper and mail.

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VIRGINIA



Students abroad: Is voting worth it?

Posted by Mechelle Hankerson OCTOBER 30

Millions of college students will head to the polls on Nov. 6 to cast their vote in the 2012 presidential election, but Ricardo Adams won't be one of them. By then, his vote will already be cast.

Adams, a junior at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Va., is currently studying abroad in Vina del Mar, Chile. He's a part of a bloc of U.S. students overseas whose potential impact on the election is seldom discussed.

Turnout among youth voters overseas has traditionally been inconsistent. Despite improvements made to the absentee registration and voting process, Americans who choose to vote abroad face the prospect of an extended ordeal that begs the question: Is it worth it?

For Adams, it was a no-brainer.

"Students living overseas have the opportunity to get a firsthand look at the enormous impact our elections have on the rest of the world's opinion of us," he said in an email about his choice to vote absentee. Though determined, he found the process to be more difficult than he originally thought.

Adams accessed his ballot online after receiving an email from the VCU Global Education Office with a link to the Federal Voting Assistance Program. He filled out a Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot and planned to send it by mid-October, but repeated issues with mail delivery deterred him. After deciding to vote at the U.S. embassy instead, he couldn't find transportation on Election Day. Finally, he mailed his ballot as he had originally planned.

As tedious as it may have been, Adams' extra effort won't be wasted. An election once characterized by double digit leads for President Barack Obama in battleground states is suddenly competitive.

A recent poll by Rasmussen Reports shows Republican challenger Mitt Romney with a slight lead over President Obama in Virginia. If the president is to win the commonwealth's 13 electoral votes again in 2012, he'll need a boost from youth voters – both inside and outside of the U.S. – similar to the one he got in 2008.

The 2008 presidential election saw the third highest turnout of youth voters in U.S. history: about 22 million. More than 260,000 U.S. students studied abroad during the 2008-2009 school year, according to the 2010 Open Doors report by the Institute of International Education.

Turnout among youth voters overseas in the 2008 election wasn't stellar. According to a post-election survey of civilian voters abroad conducted by the Federal Voting Assistance Program, 58 percent of 18 to 29 year-olds who responded said they did not vote in the 2008 election, more than any other age group. Legislation passed since then is expected to improve absentee turnout in 2012.

In 2009, the federal government passed the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment (MOVE) Act. The legislation led 47 states, including Virginia, to pass similar laws increasing enfranchisement of overseas voters.

Under the legislation, voters are no longer required to have absentee ballots notarized. States are required to send absentee ballots to registered overseas voters at least 45 days prior to the election. Electronic absentee ballots and registration applications must be made available online by each state in case hard copies don't arrive, the law states.

Currently, 13 states allow online voter registration, according to a spokesperson for the Pew Center on the States; Virginia is not one of them.

About The 12

The 12 is a group Tumblr of The Washington Post and student journalists in 12 battleground states documenting the 2012 presidential election and capturing perspectives of young voters.

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The trend toward electronic registration was spearheaded in 2008 by the Overseas Vote Foundation (OVF). Nearly 5 million people accessed the OVF webpage in 2008, including nearly 2 million in the October before the election, according to a report by the Pew Center on the States.

Overseas Vote Foundation established an offshoot, Youth Vote Overseas (YVO), to target students going abroad. The organization does outreach with more than 450 colleges across the country, including more than 10 schools in Virginia.

The goal is to encourage students to register to vote before going abroad, explained Marina Mecl, Youth Vote Overseas outreach program director. As a result, much of YVO's web traffic comes from within the U.S.

Contact with partner universities overseas helps YVO's cause, Mecl said, especially in traditional hubs for exchange students.

Between July and October, the organization tallied its highest number of registrations abroad from the United Kingdom, Spain, Italy and France – four of the top five study abroad destinations from 2008 to 2010. About three out of four voters registering on the site are between 18 and 24.

“At the most it takes eight to ten minutes to register. Ten years ago, it was a real challenge because we didn't have these websites,” Mecl said in a Skype interview. “It's really self-explanatory now.”

Still, some students struggle to cast their vote.

“Once I got here I realized it was a longer process than I thought,” said Channing Hicks, a junior International Studies and German double major studying abroad in Germany.

Hicks didn't register before leaving for his semester abroad. By October, he said he didn't have enough time to request a ballot and resend it before Virginia's Oct. 26 deadline to vote absentee by mail.

It's not uncommon for first-time voters to have trouble registering while overseas. As Stephanie Davenport, director of education abroad at VCU, explained, registering while abroad can “...be a barrier to some who may not have considered the issue or know how to properly register for an absentee ballot.”

VCU's Global Education Office sent an email with voter registration information to all students scheduled to go abroad during the fall semester. They chose not to include information for private organizations, like Youth Vote Organization, to avoid bias, Davenport said in an email.

Hicks plans to travel to Frankfurt on Nov. 6 to cast his vote at the U.S. Embassy. Despite the difficulties, not voting is out of the question. There's too much at stake.

Said Hicks: “This is what we have to come home to after the semester.”

The CT's Managing Editor Mark Robinson reported from Gaborone, Botswana, where he is studying abroad for the semester.

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#Virginia #politics #Election 2012 #absentee voting #study abroad #students

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Notes

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One year later, impact of student's death still felt

February 20th, 2013

Mark Robinson
Managing Editor

In the cavernous sanctuary of the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Gabrielle Atkins clutches a strand of beige rosary beads and a prayer booklet in her hands.

With her head bowed, she closes her eyes, signs the cross and whispers the Apostles' Creed, then the Our Father. Three Hail Marys follow and a Glory be to the Father. She is one of two people at the scheduled Monday night rosary.

As dictated by the Catholic ritual, the first mystery is announced: "Agony in the Garden," the first of the five Sorrowful Mysteries. They dedicate it to all those lost in the past year.

The Our Father and a round of 10 Hail Marys follows. As each is complete, Atkins slides her index finger and thumb up a bead on her strand. She rocks back and forth rhythmically, meditating. The pair's whispers echo in the empty labyrinth of pews. Two tea candles flicker in front of a cross at their feet.



Carolina Perez was a biology major at VCU when she was killed in a drunken driving accident. Photo courtesy of Princess Anne High School

They complete the Hail Marys and repeat the Glory be to the Father. Atkins kisses the cross on her rosary beads and another round of prayer begins. Her voice blends in unison with the friend next to her, but another voice is missing.

That voice would have belonged to Carolina Perez, a VCU student killed in a drunken driving crash last February. Before she died, Perez would lead the Monday night rosary at the Cathedral.

Atkins recalled how Perez, a native Spanish speaker, would fumble through the prayers in English.

"She'd trip up on her English whenever she'd pray the rosary," Atkins said. "She'd just give up and do it in Spanish."

Hearing Perez recite the prayers in her native language gave Atkins a sense of a greater connection to the wider Catholic community. Now, the feeling is different.

"Whenever I hear it in Spanish, I hear it in Carolina's voice," she said, quietly. "And it hurts. It hurts now."

After a night of bar hopping with friends in Shockoe Bottom, Varinder "Vick" Chahal got into the driver's seat of his white Mazda to make the short trip home. While driving west on East Canal Street, he accelerated up the steep incline that crests at 3rd Street. He continued through the intersection toward 2nd Street and a changing light.

A blue Toyota Yaris idled at a red light at the corner of 2nd and East Canal Streets. Gabrielle Atkins was at the wheel. Jan Garcia, a VCU student, sat next to her in the passenger's seat. Carolina Perez was in the backseat behind Garcia.

They were returning from dropping a friend off on Southside after a Fat Tuesday meal at The Village Café and a hangout session at the Catholic Campus Ministry. On the way home, Garcia suggested that Atkins take the Robert E. Lee Bridge home so they could see the lights of the city skyline.

At 12:37 a.m., the red light in front of Atkins turned green. She put her car in first gear and accelerated. Already in the intersection, she looked over her right shoulder and saw a white car coming.

Chahal's Mazda sped through a red light at the intersection and collided with the Yaris on the back passenger side, where Perez was sitting. The impact sent Atkins' car careening across the intersection into a nearby brick building. In a parking lot adjacent to the intersection, a Richmond police officer saw the crash happen.

When paramedics arrived on the scene, they pulled Perez from the backseat first, then Garcia and Atkins from the front. They were rushed to MCV to receive treatment for their injuries. The whiplash from the crash fractured a vertebrae in Garcia's neck. Atkins suffered three broken ribs and a fractured scapula. Her liver and spleen were bruised. Both have since made a full recovery.

Perez died in the hospital. The 19-year-old sophomore was majoring in biology and minoring in chemistry and Catholic studies at VCU. She was a month shy of her 20th birthday.

Neither Chahal, nor any of the four passengers in his car were injured in the crash.

Chahal, a senior at VCU at the time, was charged with felony manslaughter, driving under the influence and refusing to submit to blood and breath tests. The police obtained a warrant for Chahal's blood, which showed his blood alcohol content at the time of the crash was 0.18, more than twice the legal limit.

According to his lawyer, Chahal thought he could beat the yellow light.

Three hundred and sixty-five days have passed since his daughter died, but Rogelio Perez still hurts.

In a short phone conversation, he relayed three things he wants people to know about his daughter and the cause of her death: He wants them to know Carolina was a nice girl. He wants them to know she always tried to be helpful to everyone. Most of all, he wants them to know they shouldn't drink and drive.

No one deserves to feel the pain he has felt since he lost his daughter, he said.

"This thing is going to be hard for all of my life," he said. "It's never going to disappear."

After the accident, Rogelio and his wife, Floriana, went through a bout of depression. The couple's two sons, Rogelio Jr., 14, and Adam, 9, are without their big sister, but their father doesn't think they understand what happened to her.

"They will be more affected when they grow up a little bit more," he said. "I know when they realize exactly what happened, they're going to be more sad."

His family knows him as Varinder. His friends know him as Vick. The Richmond City Jail knows him as Offender No. 133877.

After facing up to 20 years for aggravated manslaughter, Varinder Chahal pleaded down in July to felony manslaughter and driving under the influence, halving the maximum sentence he could receive. In September, a judge sentenced Chahal to five years in prison with four years suspended. An additional three months were tacked on for the DUI.

He never completed his accounting degree at VCU and withdrew from school following the accident, according to his attorney Ed Riley.

Chahal has already served about five months of his 15-month sentence. He can have visitors three times a week, receive mail and play basketball during his allotted recreation time like he did at the Cary Street Gym.

If it was determined that Chahal would not harm himself when he arrived at the jail, he was likely placed in community custody, according to Jerry Baldwin, a spokesperson for the Richmond City Sheriff's Office.

A majority of the Richmond City Jail's nearly 1,400 inmates are placed in community custody, which is broken down into more than 10 groups of up to 130 inmates, Baldwin said. Each of these groups share a large cell, or tier.

Chahal is likely housed with others who have committed similar offenses, Baldwin said.

Inmates in community custody are woken up between 4 and 4:30 a.m. each morning. They wear a canvas, one-piece zip-up jumpsuit each day. The color of the jumpsuit depends on the tier classification of the inmate.

Those who are not scheduled to go to court immediately leave the tier to eat a 15- to 20-minute breakfast in the mess hall. They aren't allowed to talk during the meal.

After breakfast, inmates return to their tier. The day's schedule depends on the privileges of the tier, which in turn depend on their custody level and behavior, Baldwin said.

Depending on their tier's privileges, inmates are allotted time to participate in substance abuse programs, go to the jail's library or meet with pastors or religious leaders. Recreation time, too, is afforded by privilege.

Chahal spent his 24th birthday behind bars, but could spend his 25th birthday with his family. He is expected to be released in August of this year, according to the Virginia Department of Corrections website.

Chahal denied a request for visitation from the Commonwealth Times.

In the time since her death, Carolina Perez has become the face of a cause on the VCU campus.

Cooperation among the VCU administration, University Wellness Center, Catholic Campus Ministry, Emerging Healthcare Leaders and others who knew Carolina Perez helped establish Carolina's Pledge, a denouncement of drunken driving in the VCU community.

Ninety-six people signed the pledge at the kick-off ceremony last April. Since then, hundreds more have heard Perez's story.

Linda Hancock, director of the University Wellness Center, visited 62 classroom sections of UNIV 101 last fall to teach bystander training to freshmen students. The goal, Hancock said, is to teach students how to overcome the bystander effect, the tendency of people to not speak up or help in an emergency situation when other people are present.

In Chahal's case, each of the four passengers in his car could have spoken up to prevent him from drinking and driving, Hancock said.

In her mind, every student organization, faculty and staff member need to learn how to combat the bystander effect. The push is already underway. Students involved with Greek life and resident assistants have already received training and Hancock is hoping to reach more students with Perez's story.

"Carolina crystallized something that was going to happen anyway," Hancock said. "It gave all this power to something we needed to do."

The Well is hosting bystander training events open to the VCU community on Wednesday, March 13 from 12 to 2 p.m. at the Student Commons in the Forum Room and again from 8 to 10 p.m. in Virginia Rooms C and D. Another training event the following day will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Commons Theater.

Gabrielle Atkins will sit in the sanctuary of Sacred Heart Catholic Church on Friday at noon to mark the one-year anniversary of losing her friend: Feb. 22, 2013.

Atkins, who hopes to graduate from VCU in 2014, is worried that the initial impact of Perez's death hasn't produced the changes she and others hoped for after it happened. The VCU community is large and Perez was only one member of it, she said.

"(Carolina's death) had a great impact on me and several other people I know, but if you look at it in terms of 30,000 people ... she's just one person. It happened and it's very unfortunate and it's terrible."

"You have one person in jail, one person dead and other people being affected, but in the end, I feel like that's all it will be ... I don't want to say it's normal, but it's not shocking enough to people to keep a sense of urgency," she said.

While recovering from the crash, Atkins thought Perez's death would have a larger impact on the university. One year later, she's dealing with a preexisting anxiety disorder worsened by the emotional trauma of losing a friend and the day-to-day reminders of the void that's left.

Atkins still attends mass, rosary and Catholic Campus Ministry meetings at Sacred Heart. She still walks through the hallways of the classroom buildings she and Perez shared on campus. She still eats at The Village Café with friends and can recall the exact place she sat with Perez the night of their crash: the middle booth on the back wall by the bathrooms.

She's driven through the intersection at 2nd and East Canal streets and wondered how things could have been different, what she could have done differently.

When she sits down in the sanctuary at Sacred Heart on Friday, Atkins will remember a friend whose happiness she truly misses. One year later, a community will mourn with her a death that could have been prevented.

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One Response to "One year later, impact of student's death still felt"

1. *Pat McAbee* says:
February 21, 2013 at 7:21 pm

What a beautiful tribute to a wonderful person; I remember Carolina's friendly, sweet face at Princess Anne High, where I was a librarian and Carolina visited almost daily. She is still missed and loved.

Reply