

Jennifer Mintzer  
Interview Story

The lobby of Myrin library was exceptionally empty last Monday night. Shortly after 7 p.m., a petite woman with dark features and dark, layered hair pushed open the door, casually chatting with a friend. The silence was broken. Christen Troiano had arrived.

Clad in jeans and a loose-fitting, button-down shirt, this 21-year-old junior appeared to dress like every other college student. As she approached nearer, however, her unique style became more evident. Her Converse sneakers, multiple-pierced ears and the three large silver rings which graced her fingers made her appearance memorable. Troiano, who was voted best dressed in high school, said she usually trusts her instincts when it comes to fashion.

Troiano said she relied heavily on her instincts when it came time to choose a college as well. She knew that she wanted to go to a relatively small school, and she began to visit several colleges that fit this requirement and that were within a few hours driving distance of her home in Point Pleasant, N.J. "When I visited Ursinus for the first time, I just had this feeling that I knew this was where I wanted to go. It just felt right," she said. Troiano said that a merit scholarship clinched her decision, and she entered Ursinus in the fall of 1993 as a psychology major.

During her sophomore year, Troiano decided that psychology did not really "thrill" her. "At first I thought I'd follow the psychology path and eventually get a job doing research, but I really felt torn because, in my heart, I had always wanted to go into radio," she said. Troiano said she had previously been hesitant about declaring this to be her career focus, for it had always seemed to be a risky field in her mind. Once again, Troiano decided she should follow her instincts to happiness, and she soon decided to major in communication arts and to minor in business administration.

This change in major proved to be more satisfying, for Troiano said that she really

enjoys the communications curriculum. In particular, Troiano said that the Television I class she took last semester was the most interesting class she had ever taken because it provided her with hands-on experience in the field of broadcasting and producing.

Troiano also cited that she has gained valuable experience through her involvement with the Ursinus College radio station. "We hardly have any listeners, but it's worth being involved with because I'm learning how to work all of the technical equipment," Troiano said. Currently, Troiano programs two hours worth of music a week which includes mostly alternative and reggae songs. Troiano is planning to spend her summer doing an internship at Sony Records in Los Angeles to supplement her knowledge further and to possibly make some connections. After graduation, she would like to get any type of job in a record company.

"I probably should have transferred to a school out in California once I knew that I was going for a career in radio," Troiano said, citing Ursinus' lack of specialty in the communications field. She added with a smile that she never got around to making it happen and decided that it would be easier to just stay at Ursinus since she had already developed a lot of friendships and Ursinus was close to her home.

Troiano, an only child, said that she truly enjoys being around her parents, and she is happy at Ursinus because it affords her the opportunity to stay close to them. "My mom is really great," Troiano said. "About a year ago we got tattoos together," she added. The younger Troiano got a scorpion on her thigh.

Troiano also said that her family keeps close by travelling a lot as well. Since her father is a travel agent for Liberty Travel, they frequently make trips to the Caribbean or "wherever else a free trip pops up."

Troiano had been planning to use her father's services to go to Cancun with three of her Tau Sigma sorority sisters during spring break. The plans are now off because one person cancelled. Troiano said that this does not really bother her all that much, for she knows she'll

probably end up going on a vacation soon anyway. "I'm not one to get stressed out. "Whatever happens, happens," she said.