

Putney Snapshots

Putney distinguishes itself by providing a progressive education. In other words, it's not the prototypical "college prep school" at all. However, most graduates do go to college. A very respectable percentage gets accepted to very respectable colleges. But, to its credit, Putney supports the occasional peculiar choice. Graduates have attended Annapolis (not odd for mainstream America, but unusual for Putney) and one of this year's juniors is considering a career as a stunt man.

Here are a few brave choices among this year's graduating class.

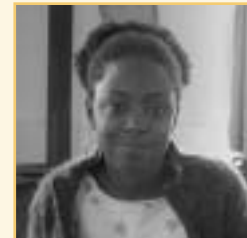
Seth Quarrier knows there's more to life than engineering.



Seth Quarrier applied to colleges with strong engineering departments. One prominent college offered a nice financial aid package. But it wasn't "nice enough" and it came with a second problem: In the time between application and acceptance, Seth had begun to suspect that schools that were known primarily for their engineering departments might not have, for example, good Russian literature or philosophy departments. (Seth is currently reading Dostoyevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov*, Nietzsche's *On the Genealogy of Morals* and Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*.) So Seth opted for the less prestigious—and less expensive—University of

New Hampshire, where he thinks that the engineering department will be "perfectly good" and where he knows he will be able to exercise all of his non-engineering talents and interests.

Intisar Abioto got accepted into a very prestigious college in the northeast and an almost equally prestigious women's college in the south. She also got accepted into Spelman, a "private, liberal arts, historically Black college for women in Atlanta, Georgia" (or so reads its brochure). Intisar is an African-American from Memphis. In the year she spent in Vermont she discovered that she missed the South, didn't much like the cold, and wanted very much to live again in an African-American enclave. So Spelman was the choice, hands down.



Intisar Abioto returns to more familiar geography and culture.

Taylor McNeil found a perfect fit through early decision.



Taylor McNeil is a year young for her class, but she is as composed, purposeful and self-assured as any other senior. Taylor loves math-related sciences. She applied to Smith, MIT, and Brown and got into Smith on early decision. When asked if she was at all sad about the fact that she had needed to honor her "early decision" promise to Smith before she had even heard from MIT and Brown, she offered a Taylor-typical, no-nonsense answer. "Smith is where I belong."

Like virtually all Putney seniors, Kat Partington applied to four-year college. But unlike most Putney seniors, Kat is an extraordinarily gifted actress and dancer. She knew from the outset of her junior year that she wanted to study in a conservatory program, and that she wanted the program to be in England. Kat's audition (as Electra) resulted in admission into the London Academy of Dramatic and Musical Arts, where she will study classical acting for two semesters and then be released into the about-to-be-taken-by-storm-yet-again world of theatre. Her only regret: With all that auditioning, she got an incomplete in Barn, which she made up the week after graduation.



Kat Partington prefers the most direct route to her career dreams.