

# THE RCA INFORMATION COMPENDIUM

The RCA Information Compendium (RCAIC) is an attempt to aggregate the best ideas, philosophies, and advice from RCAs across Princeton into one place. Being an RCA is a complex and creative job, and there are a million ways to do it. While your training will give you the basic skills you need, you'll learn a huge amount over the year. Core Group is an opportunity to share these lessons, but it doesn't allow ideas to cross colleges, and people rarely write down what they hear, so good ideas can be forgotten and lost. Distilling the best of these ideas and sharing them across colleges can only make them better. This first version of RCAIC includes thoughts from the Classes of 2013 and 2014; hopefully future classes will continue this project and contribute their own ideas in due time.

Each section begins with a summary of the most common responses, followed by a sampling of individual quotes on that topic to give you a sense of the range and depth of responses. New RCAs should find some of the advice that before could only be gleaned from hundreds of conversations with returning RCAs. While this is not a comprehensive database—that would require digitizing the brains of 100 people—it's a major first step in realizing what this job entails and learning some practical skills before you do it for real.

Veteran RCAs will also find something interesting here, whether it's a job philosophy they never considered, or merely the satisfaction of knowing that a challenge or regret they had is actually common to all RCAs. Hopefully, this booklet will also come in handy when you need ideas for study breaks, or when the job is getting you down and you need some perspective.

This information wouldn't exist without an army of passionate, creative RCAs are brilliant at their jobs and were willing to share their thoughts. If any good comes from this project, the credit is all theirs. And if you found it helpful at all, I hope you'll carry this project forward, expand it, revamp it, revise it, make it better, and make it your own.

-AM '14

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## STUDY BREAKS

There's a pretty strong consensus among RCAS when it comes to certain aspects of study breaks. Here's what we heard most often:

- Study breaks that have even a small amount of involvement or DIY (like making sundaes) are way more effective at getting people to stay and hang out.
- Try to host study breaks in your room, if it's big enough. Zees are more likely to come and stay because it's close, and it makes them more comfortable hanging out in your room.
- Asking zees for study break suggestions and acting on them boosts attendance. Taking food orders encourages people to come as well, since they know there's something waiting specifically for them.
- Doing combined study breaks with other RCAs is helpful both for introducing your zees to other freshman, and getting more people to come out to "educational" study breaks.
- Working birthdays into study breaks can save you some effort. Several RCAs suggested having birthday zee pick the menu for the study break, while others had study breaks specifically as birthday parties—though they warned about cake fatigue.
- Sometimes people won't come to study breaks, and that's okay. Our job is to provide the opportunities; if your zees have found other options elsewhere, be proud of them, not disappointed.

Trader Joe's snack study break. It was incredibly cheap to buy a TON of food, and it drew out a lot of people who won't come for the pizza, cupcakes, chicken wings, cookies sort of thing.

- '14

Diversity in study breaks is important. Do them on different days, at different times, and with different food. Your zees will likely have very wide interests/tastes/availability, so mixing it up makes sure everyone is recognized.

-Meredith Wright '13, Whitman

Plan out your study breaks ahead of time on your Princeton Gmail Account Calendar. You can share it with your zees, and that accountability will keep you on track for giving the zees the breaks they craaaaaaaave.

- '14, Whitman

I also had great success with a Saturday/Sunday morning study break (surprising, I know)—people get hungry WAY before the dining hall opens. Bagels at 10 AM drew out a bunch of my upperclassmen (ARCA).

- '14

Doing study breaks during dinnertime when you're busy. Ordering sushi / Chinese /

Cheeburger during dinner tended to get a lot of 'zees to show up, and it also saves you time if you have a busy week (since you already allot time for meals). Also, 'zees tended to love these study breaks.

*- '14, Wilson*

Talk to your college administrator: you can get grills and charcoal from Dining Services for free or little cost. Get some burgers, buns, and condiments, and you have an awesome cookout study break for less than \$30. (Credit: Steve Server '14).

*-Adam Mastroianni '14, Whitman*

I always loved impromptu study breaks, particularly with movies. One way to be a good RCA is to play to your strengths - incorporate your zee interaction into the things you already like. If you're gonna watch 30 Rock, invite them to watch 30 Rock with you. If you're going to go see Quipfire!, invite them to go see Quipfire!. Odds are that they want to do the same Princeton things that you do, and it only helps them to feel like a regular, initiated member of the Princeton community.

*- '14, Whitman*

I went to George's and got a ton of different types of fries (sweet potato, cheese, buffalo, etc.). BIG HIT.

*- '14, Wilson*

The best study breaks don't necessarily have to have a lot of variety; rather having a large quantity of one thing can be great so that they feel like they can dig in—also it's easier on you.

*- '14, Rocky*

If you have study breaks in your room, clean up your room like 2 notches above your own standard. Every zee group has a zee whose standard for cleanliness is two notches above that of every Junior and Senior, RCA or not.

*-Luke Massa '13, Rocky*

It was snowing one evening so I just got some cookie dough and baked cookies and a lot of my 'zees felt that it was super homey and comforting. Simple things are great.

*- '14, Wilson*

Consider getting involved and planning college-wide or building-wide events with other RCAs that are more than just food or movies.

*- '14*

It's going to happen—the study break not a soul comes to. They are busy, they are not hungry, etc. etc. Take heart, then eat the entire box of bent spoon cupcakes as comfort food.

*-Luke Massa '13, Rocky*

## ONE-ON-ONES

As you'd probably expect, RCAs often point to one-on-ones as providing a foundation for our relationships with zees. These ideas came up often:

- Some RCAs have a list of prepared questions, and others let the conversation flow freely. No matter which approach you take, you should at least have a few questions up your sleeve, especially for zees who won't open up.
- One-on-ones don't have to be—and shouldn't be—the last time your zees talk to you individually. It might take a fair amount of initiative to make sure these conversations continue to happen.

I discovered using WASS to schedule one-on-ones, which made things much easier. I left my spring one-on-ones until the end of the year this year, which I think was a mistake. Do some right at the beginning of second semester to get up to speed with challenges ASAP. Then do them again at the end if you have the time.

*-Daniel Lewis '13, Whitman*

After introducing myself and explaining my role, I would ask a series of four questions:

1. What are you excited about for this upcoming year?
2. What are you most nervous about for this upcoming year?
3. Is there something you want to do differently from your high school experience?
4. How do you see me playing a role in your Princeton career?

When a zee would not open up to me, I'd ask if there was anything they wanted to know about my experience at Princeton. By sharing and opening up to them, I successfully established a foundation for the relationship.

*-Kanwal Matharu '13, Forbes*

I did follow-up one-on-ones. It made no sense for me for my kids to pour their hearts out... only once, and then never make a concerted effort to see how their freshman year was having an impact on their thoughts, feelings, previous experiences, etc.

*-Steph Teeple '14, Forbes*

Asking about my zees' high school life during one-on-one's. Especially if you have them once the school year started, it's tempting to focus that time on forward-thinking and asking them what they want to get involved in on campus. However, you'd learn a lot just by asking them about their family or high school friends that gives you greater insight on why they're feeling or doing the things they are.

*-Charissa Shen '14, Butler*

I found individual small group hot chocolate or fro-yo dates to be really successful. It was nice to get off campus and a great opportunity for me to get to know them in a smaller setting.

*- '13, Wilson*

I held office hours for 2 hours a week, where I was sure to be in my room. I hosted a couple mini-study breaks during this time for a while, and then it was a time that people could drop by to chat with no worries about other people being there, etc. I also told them if they wanted to, they could schedule 'appointments.' It sounds a little formal, but it worked!

*-Steph Teeple '14, Forbes*

During my one-on-ones, I made sure to tell my zees about myself as well. This meeting is about getting to know one another and develop trust. That doesn't happen on a one-way street.

*- '13, Butler*

I didn't do my one-on-one's right... I think I talked too much, and we talked more about Princeton. Instead (this upcoming year, as a senior), I'll ask them to really tell me their story from high school. At that stage, it's what they know, and how they identify themselves... I think it would have built a better relationship.

*- '14*

I think I tried to be unnecessarily casual in my one-on-ones; I'm hoping to get into deeper identity, goal-setting stuff this year that would have meant a lot to me freshman year. Even if my zees wouldn't naturally inventory their expectations and objectives, that will help them start college more mindfully, which is a good thing.

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

## COMMUNICATION

Much of our job involves conveying information to zees. RCAs had two important ideas in common when it came to communication:

- The opening meeting is critical, and every bit of preparation you put into it will be well worth it.
- Getting in touch via text is better than an email, but in-person is the best. It takes courage sometimes, but knocking on a door is a powerful thing.

An important thing to do in the opening meeting is to have students put your number, P-Safe's number, and other important numbers into their cell phones. Otherwise they probably never will.

*-Meredith Wright '13, Whitman*

One of the best things I ever did as an RCA was spend a ton of time with the opening meeting script, making it my own, putting it in an order I thought made sense, cutting out the parts I didn't think were vital, and even rehearsing it a couple times. It's a long meeting, so some zees will inevitably tune out, but you'll keep more people's attention longer if you really streamline it. I had a zee tell me afterward that she could tell I had worked hard on what I said and that she appreciated it.

*-Adam Mastroianni '14, Whitman*

I synthesized college office emails. Remember the flood of emails that we got as underclassmen? Remember how a small portion of them were actually important? I compiled the important ones and included them in my weekly emails. Added bonus meant that people were more likely to read these emails.

*-Steph Teeple '14, Forbes*

I wish I had left my door open more often so that I could've interacted with my zees more

*- '13, Forbes*

It helps to create a group text number the first day so you can mass text easily before orientation events. A Facebook group is good too for announcements. Best if people use it regularly just for fun, but that can't be forced.

*-Charissa Shen '14, Butler*

Get your zees to subscribe to your college listserv. They can unsubscribe later if they want, but it helps them feel like part of the college, hear about things going on, and advertise their own events. And they probably won't do it if you don't show them how.

*-Adam Mastroianni '14, Whitman*

Make a list of MANDATORY events during orientation and have them tape it on their doors. It helps them sort through the mess of the calendar.

*-Charissa Shen '14, Butler*

One of my greatest regrets is realizing I forgot to reply to a zee's email.

*-'14, Rocky*

Here's a thing that it would be nice to do, but we can't because it's against fire code. If you want your zees to come by your room, you would prop your door *all* the way open with one of those wedge things. It's much easier to walk through a wide-open door than it is to push one open that's taped or half-propped with a trashcan. I imagine that if I did this, my zees would start coming over way more often, and would know that when my door was closed I'm not available, which they would probably respect. But this is against fire code, so I don't do it. It's merely a dream.

*-Adam Mastroianni '14, Whitman*

Be available, but not too available—set boundaries. Your zees will call you in the middle of the night if there is an emergency. If you tell them to call you anytime they have a question, they will call you at 2 a.m. with questions about syllabi or course selection. Tell them from the beginning that they should talk to you about questions like these at whatever time is best for you.

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

## SOPHOMORES

Dealing with sophomores can be one of the toughest parts of the job, since we don't have institutionalized interactions with them. RCAs agreed on a few things when it comes to sophomores:

- Not connecting strongly with sophomores was a common regret.
- Sophomores require proactive, confident, and sophomore-specific efforts. In general, they will not come to you; you have to go to them.

Be BOLD with your sophomores. Even if they are way too cool and they scare you, they are more likely to talk with you and be a contributing member on the hall if they think you are nice and not weird. If you are like, "Pfff, whatever, he/she's too into [sports team] anyway!" then he/she will probably never take the initiative his/herself.

*-Whitman '14*

Hold a few sophomore-only events very early in the year. They will feel uncomfortable showing up to events that are dominated by freshmen, but are often curious to meet other sophs on the hall.

*-'14*

I wish I had gone door to door in the first week or two to meet my sophomores, maybe even with some baked goods. I always included them on all my emails about study breaks, etc., and by the end of the year I had gotten to know most of them—and a few of them very well!—but there were a couple that I simply never met. Sophomores all have a different level of involvement with their RCA, and some could really care less about having one, and that's fine... but they should at least recognize you in case something does come up.

*-'14, Rocky*

The first week is the busiest. However, when things slow down during the first two weeks, be sure to introduce yourself (in person!) to your sophomores and upperclassmen.

*-'13, Butler*



### ON-CALL, ROUNDS, AND DEALING WITH CRISES

RCAAs had a couple ideas in common when it came to the more intense parts of our job:

- Other RCAs are having the same worries, doubts, and problems that you are—you're not alone.
- Your DSL isn't just your supervisor; he or she is just as much a resource to you as you are to your zees.

When you're on call and trying to deal with a party, call P-Safe. That's what they're for. And encourage/empower your freshmen to call P-Safe as well - they should take ownership of their environment.

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

Parties: let them have a bit of fun—just make sure it's not too loud too late.

*-Kanwal Matharu '13, Forbes*

The best rounds experience I ever had was when I brought a tray of cookies along. Rather than just walking through the college, we actually had a reason to stop and interact with people besides just breaking up their parties.

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

Don't skimp on rounds. Think of them as a bi-weekly experience to spend time with that RCA you don't usually hang out with.

*-Luke Massa '13, Rocky*

I emphasized to my zees that I'm not trying to bust you, just trying to ensure community standards. For example, there was a problem with smoking pot. I sent a warning email to the hallway, explaining why it was no good and saying that the next time I smelled it I'd call public safety. And the next time I called P-Safe, simple as that.

*-Kanwal Matharu '13, Forbes*

One individual came to me in utter sorrow and panic and homesickness several weeks into the year. We sat down and had a great, honest conversation that calmed the student down so much, and was something of an emotional turning point for the individual. I was able to say that I understood what they were going through (having struggled in the adjustment myself), and just by listening I made the student feel so much better (they sent a thank you note later... so sweet!). Shortly after that the student improved so much and is doing amazingly (I'm pretty proud of this student!).

*- '14*

RCAAs have to be RCAs for each other; there are some things that you can't really talk about with anyone else. In the same vein, get to know your college staff early, because they're looking out for your wellbeing, too, and can help if the load gets too heavy.

*- '14, Rocky*

Sometimes the administration will already be dealing with a zee by the time you know something's wrong. This can be pretty frustrating as an RCA—you're supposed to be the first line of defense, and it feels like you failed if you didn't catch something first, but don't beat yourself up. Some things go through administrative channels that bypass you; professors don't call RCAs when students are failing, for example. Otherwise, remember that not every zee will come to you with their problems, and you can't know every detail about the lives of 15-20 people, especially the details they don't want to share.

*- '14, Whitman*

Mediation of conflicts often works well when you include a second mediator - whether another RCA, PAA, PHA, or RGS. I found it adds to the dialogue.

*-Daniel Lewis '13, Whitman*

### **PRACTICAL ADVICE**

RCAs have a wealth of tips and tactics to get the job done. There's no way to boil these down into a few bullet points, so just enjoy a sample of the ideas we were able to generate:

Don't take more than two night seminars if you can avoid it, especially if they are near the beginning of the week. This gives you less time for your 'zees to come by your room and for you to develop a stronger relationship with them.

*- '14, Wilson*

This is a simple thing, but I put a lot of effort into decorating my bulletin board and making nice signs for each zee's door, having it all ready before they moved in. I remember that parents expressed to me how nice and welcoming the hallway seemed. I also feel that at other universities, decorating the hall is a big deal, and so incoming freshman might expect it. An easy way to make it look like you put in lots of effort is to buy a big piece of paper or posterboard to cover the entire bulletin board. I found one at my local art store that was only 35 cents--it was an orange and black print and looked great all year. I also made my individual door decorations over the summer since I knew that training would be busy/tiring.

*-Meredith Wright '13, Whitman*

International zees will tend to get more homesick than other zees. Be sure to check in with them and make sure they are being social to make the transition easier.

*- '14, Wilson*

I kept a bag of candy and a bag of condoms taped outside my door. It made it a little less obvious which one you were going for, and made some of my more reserved zees feel a little less awkward about the whole thing.

*-Steph Teeple '14, Forbes*

A "best practice" is to have a meal once-a-week with your hall, starting from the very beginning. It sort of establishes a family feel to the hall, and it is a budget-friendly way to bring everyone together each week.

*-Meredith Wright '13, Whitman*

Make your name tags before training. (For those in Butler, consider making smaller inserts too once fire safety makes you take the main signs down)

*-Charissa Shen '14, Butler*

Find out what time your zees eat in the dining halls (half of mine had a schedule that they usually kept to) and go to the dhall then and see they are free - easy way to arrange relaxed zee time.

*- '13, Butler*

My engineering 'zees told me at the end of the year that the one thing they wish they knew beforehand was how short Spring semester was. They pretty much unanimously said that if they had known this and had writing sem in the Spring, they would have taken 5 classes in the fall (instead of in the spring).

- '14, Wilson

Gifts! Lots of little gifts, for holidays (including Valentine's day), with little pep-talk notes before their first round of winter finals, etc. Several commented that little gestures like that really brightened up their days.

-Steph Teeple '14, Forbes

I think my biggest hit was a huge study break in the second or third week of class, and we had another conversation about Princeton academics. It was helpful for them to be able to talk about the sheer shock of the workload, get advice on academics, and commiserate with me about how much harder Princeton was than they'd expected. This would have otherwise been a period of academic panic for another of them, but I think by having an ongoing and public conversation about it, I was able to help many of them stay calmer about some of the early challenges of Princeton.

- '14

For me personally, having a ton of snacks in my room wasn't the most effective use of resources, because I wasn't in my room as much as I thought I'd be. I'll probably have more frequent (possibly shorter) study breaks next year.

-Charissa Shen '14, Butler

If you are an ARCA, especially in a 4 year college—do not be discouraged by the lack of involvement from upperclassmen. DO treat them more like friends, and not like advisees. Don't bother holding a study break during frosh week. DO buy individual snacks based on what specific people like, and let them know they are in your room! DO make an effort to get to know one freshman zee group well. And DON'T be bashful about going to study breaks with an RCA's freshmen zees if you are an ARCA.

- '14

Tell your zees about Career Services early. Most freshmen don't learn about what they do and how helpful they can be until deadlines for summer things have already passed.

- '14, Whitman

## JOB PHILOSOPHY

As a returning RCA in Rocky pointed out, “there are a thousand different ways to be an amazing RCA”. Each RCA has his or her own style, but they do agree on a couple things:

- As a ‘14er in Whitman phrases it, RCAs have their own “faults, frailties, and failures”, and we shouldn’t try to appear perfect to our zees. Being honest about our weaknesses makes us more approachable and relatable.
- It’s helpful to learn from what other RCAs are doing, but don’t worry if they have a different approach than you do.

Don't fee like you're competing for the award of coolest RCA, because chances are, your zees think you're pretty cool even if your style is very different from that of the RCA down the hall.

*-’14, Rocky*

Maybe this isn't your style, but I like to think I cultivated a "Luke is silly, let's poke fun at him, giggle giggle" vibe in my zee group. I really think it brought my zees together in a way, set up a distinction between ME and THEM, but also made them comfortable. Again, I'm not saying this is the way to go with everyone, but don't underestimate the power of people ganging together to harmlessly rib the leader.

*-Luke Massa '13, Rocky*

Don't stress out if you're not all of your zees' best friends. I think I thought that when the year began, I was going to be the first person they talked to about all their problems. This most likely WON'T be the case for most of your zees, but your role is to make sure they CAN come to you if they'd like. It's also to make sure they have SOMEBODY to talk to if they need. But again, don't feel like you're messing up if you're not constantly presented with a crisis.

*-Charissa Shen '14, Butler*

Above all, your job (in my humble opinion) is to model responsible behavior. You were chosen not only because you will be good at all the nuts and bolts of the job, but also because someone pointed to you and said "this is what a good Princeton student looks like." Prove yourself worthy of admiration by your zees, and then model the behavior that made you singled out as a commendable Princeton student.

*-Luke Massa '13, Rocky*

Don't necessarily feel like you have to include all your zees in your own activities or in your friends' activities. If you have a friend that runs a group that you feel one of your zees might be interested in—pass it on, and don't feel like you have to follow up on that. There will be plenty more things to follow up on—on the personal level—so don't add to their pressure.

*-’14, Rocky*

The advice I always told my zees is "make good choices." To me it means "exercise your own judgment, do what you think is good." I am not telling them what is right and wrong, I am telling them to THINK and do what THEY think is right.

*-Luke Massa '13, Rocky*

You are going to be great. It's always overwhelming because you're dealing with all of these awesome kids. Let them help you and guide you with their optimism, and you'll be fine. Things will happen one at a time, and you'll be great with each thing.

*-'14, Rocky*

## CHALLENGES AND REGRETS

Being an RCA is a difficult job that you do pretty much 24/7. You will make mistakes, and that's okay. It's helpful to know that other RCAs aren't perfect either, especially when you're a new RCA all pumped up from training and ready to save the world. Some common themes emerged when RCAs talked about regrets:

- Many of us will encounter zees experiencing major issues—depression, academic problems, social anxiety—that we can help with, but can't solve. Nothing will break your heart like talking to a zee who should go to CPS, but won't. Once you've reached out to a zee in need and made your support known, laid out his or her options, and talked to your DSL if necessary, you've done what you can. All that's left is to remain present if he or she decides to ask for help.
- We all have issues with balancing being an RCA with everything else we do. Help yourself out by being proactive when you know you have exams, a thesis crunch, or a big extracurricular commitment coming up, or you'll feel that classic RCA guilt later on.

My least happy memory is probably room draw both years. Prepare yourself for drama around room draw! Even the happiest of hallways will experience some drama. This is likely when you'll need to serve as a mediator and answer the most questions.

*-Meredith Wright '13, Whitman*

Something I learned is that you can't force everyone to be friends. Being friends and being a community are different. A community is a place of safety and respect, but that doesn't mean everyone has to hang out together and attend every and all study breaks. As long as your 'zees understand that you are a resource and that their residence is safe, etc. you have succeeded.

*-'14, Wilson*

I held a co-study break later in the year and only one of my zees came and stayed while others just came and grabbed food. The other RCA's zees came and spent time. I felt hurt and upset because I had taken time out of my day to organize this.

*-'14, Mathey*

I had to deal with a zee who was never told that her life was not perfect. You have to remember as an RCA that you will encounter people who have been spoiled their whole lives, and while you should do your best to help them be the best person they can be, it is not your job to raise them.

*-'14, Whitman*

I regret telling my zees I'd proofread papers for them; my Dean's Dates were high stress

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

Zees would wake me up in the middle of the night looking for snacks (which I actually may rethink - I'm not sold on the community-building benefits of having snacks in my room; I'd rather have more frequent and more appealing study breaks)

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

Seeing a zee lose track of being a good student for the sake of being a social sorority girl.

*-Kanwal Matharu '13, Forbes*

Be SUPER proactive about the roommate contracts. Maybe have an early study break with everyone there to fill them out together. It was a big hassle to get them from my students later.

*-Steph Teeple '14, Forbes*

I wish I had made a larger effort with my zeos who retreated from the group early on.

*-'13, Forbes*

I wish I had set up times that I was in my room, so-called "office hours" and maintained more of a dorm presence. Since the doors have to remain closed now, it was harder for my zeos to know when I was around to chat and hang out.

*-'13, Wilson*

I found rooming issues in suites to be challenging for everyone involved with no simple solutions.

*-'13, Wilson*

Trying to help a very depressed individual... it can be painful to care about someone and watch them suffer, knowing that there's nothing you can do to magically make it all better. I was able to help in some ways, along with other Princeton resources, but it still hurt to watch.

*-'14*

If I ever regretted anything, it was not being proactive enough or taking enough initiative when a zee had an issue. Text them, knock on their door—make that conversation with them happen. If you talk to them and they turn down the help you're offering, you've done what you can. But don't let them blow you off.

*-Adam Mastroianni '14, Whitman*



### HAPPIEST MOMENTS

Much of the advice in this booklet can make being an RCA sound overwhelming, but the job is truly rewarding most of the time. Here are some of the fondest memories from your fellow RCAs:

My happiest memory was when all of my zees showed up at my door the night before my big interview for my top choice grad school...they had organized getting me flowers, a card which they all signed, and a Starbucks giftcard. Their card was super sweet--they all talked about how helpful I had been to them in transitioning to Princeton. That made me feel like I'd been doing a good job, since the goal is to help your zees smoothly go from high school to college.

*-Meredith Wright '13, Whitman*

So many! Seeing some of my zees hang out together was always great. Also my first study break after orientation was so wonderful. I was so worried but it ended up going perfectly.

*-'14, Mathey*

Sitting on the floor in my hallway with 6 zees and their friends, after a quintessential Princeton night. Some had seen a movie at the Garden Theater, some had gone out, and some had been to an Arch Sing. We just sat there and laughed and talked about life and Princeton, and it was a bonding experience for everybody. It wasn't super late, but as people heard us in the hallway they began to come out of their rooms and hang out with us, and it ended up being like a 2-hour party on the hallway floor.

*-'14, Whitman*

My zees bringing me a cake for my birthday. Also, my end-of-year banquet: I saved enough to take all of us out to dinner and ice cream at the end of exams, and it was the most wonderful thing

*-Lizzie Martin '14, Whitman*

The ability to form deep, lasting bonds with my zees. I am extremely grateful to have had the opportunity to be so close to my zees, and create strong mentorship relationships that have blossomed into real friendships.

*-'14, Whitman*

My zees came together to throw me a surprise graduation party...it took me everything not to cry

*-'13, Forbes*

Pretty much all the time... For me, it was the simple things: zees dropping by my room for snacks, helping them out with citations on a paper, chats while brushing our teeth, etc.

*-'14, Rocky*

My favorite moments as an RCA were those really awesome study breaks where all the zees kept hanging out well past the time that I had thought most would last. They all enjoyed chatting with each other and me and cracking jokes. The atmosphere was lively and fun. Some of these study breaks included Oscar viewing party with milkshakes, pie baking, and sundae making. I also loved chatting with zees individually at meals or hot chocolate dates.

- '13, *Wilson*