

By Devin Mattheson

The student who copied should still be subject to the Honor Board violation even if she is on a leave of absence from Stevens. The fact that she committed the violation while she was a Stevens student, and therefore required to abide the honor code, means that she is still obliged to follow the same conduct that every student is expected. In copying answers she is not only taking credit for information she does not possess, but is also stealing this information from another student. In this way she is not only giving herself an unfair advantage over the entire class, but actually taking the work of another person. The fact that this theft comes in the form of words and knowledge should not mean that it can be treated lesser than any other theft. In fact it should be more serious. If someone were to break into a house, steal something, and move to another state, this should not mean that the theft is forgotten over time. The same can be said about the copied test. The truth may lose focus while she is away from Stevens but there is still physical evidence as well as other witnesses to talk to requiring the violation. The Honor Board should still proceed to investigate this case, because although the student may be away from Stevens, the violation still has an effect on the Stevens community whether one person is on campus or not.