



# The End of the Semester

May 2, 2007 By [Shawn Decker](#)

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I never went to college as a student. My parents always told me I could, if I wanted, but at 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 I had no idea what I'd study. And no college I'd ever heard about listed "Synthpop" or "Slacking" as a potential major.

☒ These days, I go to college in the role of teacher. When I step back for a second, I understand how ridiculous that is. Seriously, just take a look at the photo to the left of this paragraph.

Every year I have mixed emotions when my semester ends, and last week, Gwenn and I had our final talk of the school year at William & Mary. We arrived early, and went to a nice Thai Restaurant with our friend, Miss Williamsburg. Then after a short jaunt to Starbucks\*, we went to the school, where Barnes & Noble were setting up a table to sell My Pet Virus after the talk. Then we spoke, and the students at W&M went to their computers and broke the record for Facebook ads on Gwenn's page, besting the fine students of Drexel.

I am accomplishing everything I hoped I could roughly ten years ago, when I realized I wanted to *do something* about HIV/AIDS. I'd heard Judd, the cartoonist from Real World San Francisco for my fellow old-schoolers, on a Reunion show imploring people to get active. It struck a nerve, and a month later I had that life-changing revelation... and did something.

I take no greater pride? in anything I've ever done in my life? then I do in the work that Gwenn and I do on campuses. We're only there an hour, but I like to think they we are spreading the word, inspiring others to do *something* by sharing our personal story and connection.

When the semester winds down, I'm more than happy to see an end to the traveling aspect: the flying, renting of cars, and everything that can go wrong when you're on the road. But by August I start to feel like something is missing, or that I forgot to turn off the oven.

And then it hits me: I'm late for class. See ya next semester! \*\*\* And a big congrats to the graduating classes of '07.

Positively Yours,  
Shawn

**\* Shawn Decker avoided patronizing Starbucks for many years. An addiction to store-bought Mocha Frappuccinos, however, led to his downfall, though he still visits locally-owned Greenberry's\*\* in favor of the corporate giant.**

**\*\* Shawn Decker doesn't drink coffee. "I get high on life," he says.**

**\*\*\* Do you go to college? Then you should know that your school wastes valuable resources on terrible speakers every semester.**

**If you want to change that, then bring Shawn and Gwenn to speak at your campus, just send an email with your school's name to: [info@aboyagirlavirus.com](mailto:info@aboyagirlavirus.com)**

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