New Major - Neuroscience

Loras is pleased to announce a new academic program in neuroscience, slated to begin in fall of 2012. Biology and psychology faculty members collaborated to introduce the new program.

The new major will be a "gateway" to baccalaureate-level employment in science laboratory positions (research assistants, lab technicians), or the first step in a progression toward careers as physicians, nurses, physical therapists, clinical and research psychologists, neuropsychologists, neurolinguists, neuroscientists, neuropathologists, neurophysiologists, neuropharmacists, among others.
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The College’s philosophy has always been that scientists with a broad, varied education will make better professionals than those with a more narrow curricular background. The Loras college mission statement includes "literacy in the arts, sciences, and humanities" and "facilitating professional and career development needed by women and men in a changing world" while "emphasizing the values of the Catholic-Christian tradition for the needs and concerns of others." Loras has a long history of providing strong science education with a liberal arts tradition.

"We are very excited about the new neuroscience major at Loras from the psychological perspective because it brings together the science of the mind and the science of the body in a way that captures the essence of human functioning," said Mary Johnson PhD., Chair, Division of Behavioral Science and professor of Psychology. "This is a modern, cutting edge perspective that draws on the rich scientific contributions of both psychology and biology to give students a comprehensive understanding of what makes us human. The vocational applications of the major are very broad both in research and applied settings. Job demands in neuroscience field are already growing significantly and the trend promises to continue to grow exponentially in the years to come," concluded Dr. Johnson.

Neuroscience is a rapidly developing, interdisciplinary field that draws primarily from studying the areas of biology, biochemistry and psychology. It examines the interactive relationships between neurobiology (the structure and function of the central nervous system) and psychology (behavior, cognition, and emotion).

Dr. Thomas Davis, Chair, Division of Molecular and Life Sciences, expressed his excitement about the Neuroscience major. "It brings aspects of biology and psychology together in an interdisciplinary focus that will engage students in the study of the brain, human behavior and the physiology and cell biology of the brain's function. Students with this major will get hands-on research training as well as an opportunity to learn from several new neuroscience faculty members. Students who complete a neuroscience major will be good candidates for further training in biology, psychology and health science."

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Comprehensive Learning: Henderson and LaBadie see all sides of training room
Mon, Apr. 16, 2012 - [ATC]

Last week as part of NCAA Division III Week, we introduced you to three Duhawks who are living the Loras experience through the division's motto – Discover, Develop, Dedicate. There are six other supplemental attributes the NCAA recognized as special to the Division III setting – Proportion, Comprehensive Learning, Passion, Responsibility, Sportsmanship, and Citizenship. Below, we’ve highlight one of those attributes within the Loras College Department of Athletics – Comprehensive Learning.

For some college athletes, a transfer is the best way to maximize the college experiences both on and off the field. There are a variety of reasons why a student-athlete might transfer, but two current Duhawks did so for the same reason – the chance to compete in their sport, and Loras College's Athletic Training major. Both Lindsey LaBadie and Jasper Henderson have entered the Duhawk family, competed for the purple and gold, sustained injuries themselves, and helped other Duhawks back to 100%.

You can find Henderson, a Galena, Illinois native who tips the scales at 6'-6" and 240 pounds, on the football field in the fall. LaBadie, from Burlington, Wisconsin recently finished her career on the hardwood of the Athletics and Wellness Center as captain of the women's basketball team. You might not recognize them in their other roles on the sidelines and in the training room as student athletic trainers throughout the year as part of the 'rotations' with the college's 20 other sports.

Look no further than the class load the two took on upon arriving at Loras from Elmhurst College and Lake Forest College.

"My first two semesters here I took 18 credits to get on track to graduate in four years," Henderson said. LaBadie did the same, but for four straight semesters.

The duo mixes practice coverage, practices of their own, treatments in the training room with the recovering athletes, and class work.

Both admitted last week to seeing their teammates in a different light if they go down with an injury.

"I'm the first one to go check and see what is going on," LaBadie affirmed. "It is my first instinct."

"Adam (Burke, assistant athletic trainer) will let me get in there right away and see what is going on in the immediate moments after something happens at our practices once we check with each other," she added.
"I've seen injuries on the football field and tried to figure out what they might be," admitted Henderson. "You end up viewing sports differently, noticing things maybe other people wouldn't notice. There's more of an awareness."

Henderson and LaBadie have each also battled their own injuries.

Once prior to coming to Loras and once after her arrival, LaBadie required surgery on her right shoulder. Henderson's 2011 football season included a lung pneumothorax injury in the season opener. It had him out for a month without any activity and when he returned to the field later in the season, he lasted three more plays before tearing his ACL.

"Sometimes the person you are rehabbing with doesn't see the progress or the light at the end of the tunnel," LaBadie says. "But they might not until the end, when they are back out there at one hundred percent."

"I know what will happen if I rush back," Henderson admitted.

"I want to get out there as soon as possible. But it is a process."

The future looks a little different for the two Duhawks. Henderson has time left in uniform, while LaBadie is thinking about what comes next.

"I'm looking forward to the 2012 season and getting healthy," Henderson said with some excitement in his voice.

LaBadie recently took her certification test and is waiting for the results.

"I'm headed to Milwaukee if everything goes as planned," says LaBadie. "I am hoping to stay in the athletic training field."

As far as her move to the Loras College campus a few years back, LaBadie was all smiles. "I've never been happier than when I arrived here. I have formed SO many great relationships. The team and the coaching staff and the training staff were all so welcoming and it made it easier to grow into my roles."
Loras In Lisbon

In Spring 2013 Loras will launch a semester-based study abroad program in Lisbon, Portugal, at The Lisbon University Institute. Students will have the unique opportunity to learn Portuguese and take a variety of disciplines including History, Business, Marketing, Political Science, International Relations, Social Work, Economics, and Anthropology.

Loras in Lisbon builds upon the college's previous efforts where 18 students participated in a short-term January program to the city in 2011. The semester-long program aims for students to learn a language, take another course in Contemporary Portuguese History and Culture, as well as enroll in courses for their major(s) in English.

Dr. Mark E. Kehren, Associate Professor of History and Faculty Director of Study Abroad said, "Spending a semester in Lisbon and studying Portuguese will allow students to feel as if they are able to experience and understand the dynamics of Europe, Africa, and the Americas, because the city is truly at the crossroads of so many different societies and cultures. Furthermore, by learning Portuguese, our students will become more globally marketable since Portuguese is the most-widely spoken European language in the world after English and Spanish."

Loras Students participating in the program will be housed in a recently renovated 17th century residence hall or apartments throughout the city with other international and Portuguese students which will present them with endless possibilities to explore the city of Lisbon and the country of Portugal.

The academic components of the Loras in Lisbon Program, combined with the unique cultural aspects of Lisbon, is an exciting addition to the college's growing semester-long programs at the Dun Laoghaire Institute of Design and Technology in Ireland, the University of Botswana, the University of Pretoria in South Africa and the University of Santiago de Compostela in Spain.
2012 COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Kevin White, Ph.D. will serve as the Loras Commencement speaker on Saturday, May 19, 2012. White was the director of athletics for Loras in 1982, and has proceeded to build a very successful career since.

After serving as director of athletics at Loras for three years, White was promoted to vice president of student development and dean of students. Two years later he became the vice president of college advancement. During his time at Loras, White supervised the College's $15 million capital campaign, in addition to the $1.2 million annual fund, planned giving, alumni relations, college publications, and public relations. He also re-launched the National Catholic Basketball Tournament (NCBT) and oversaw Loras' entry into NCAA Division III and re-entry into the Iowa Conference.

"It is an honor to have Kevin White back on campus to serve as commencement speaker," said Loras College President Jim Collins. "Kevin's leadership at Loras and his successful career since are a tribute to his dedication to higher education and intercollegiate athletics. He has a deep affection for Loras and continues to say it is one of the most "magical" places he has ever served. Kevin is a tremendous leader, a man of faith, outstanding role model, and a great friend. Kevin's message will serve as a lifelong inspiration for the Loras Class of 2012."

White's career since Loras includes acting as the director of athletics at the University of Maine, Tulane University, Arizona State University, and University of Notre Dame.

In 2008 White moved to Durham, North Carolina, to accept the position of vice president and director of athletics at Duke University. Since his arrival, Duke has captured three NCAA Championships and nine ACC titles. In 2011 Duke ranked fifth in the Learfield Sports Director's Cup standings, which determine an institution's all-around strength in intercollegiate athletics. Also under White's leadership, the student athletes perform strong in the classroom as shown in the 2011 spring semester where 25 of 26 of Duke's varsity teams earned grade point averages of 3.0 or better after 24 of 26 teams achieved the same during the fall of 2012.
Camping at Loras

SPORTS CAMPS
Over the course of the summer months, many of Loras College’s 22 intercollegiate teams host camps and clinics at many of its premier facilities. The Duhawks coaching staff and student-athletes typically provide the instruction for young athletes ranging from 7 to 18 years of age. In some cases, the instruction centers on individual skills. In other cases, teams are encouraged to participate as a group. For a complete listing of athletic camps and clinics offered by Loras College’s teams, visit http://www.duhawks.com/f/Camps_and_Clinics.php

ASTRONOMY AND ROBOTICS CAMP

LORAS FOR LITERACY
The annual Summer Literacy Camp is designed to address the reading needs of elementary students in the Dubuque community who are at-risk for reading difficulties, and is sponsored by Loras for Literacy and the Loras College Division of Education. The Summer Literacy Camp is a two-week intensive reading intervention for approximately 60 first and second grade students who are recommended by their schools. Children have opportunities for intensive one-to-one tutoring, participation in reader’s theatre, writing, and using technology to support reading achievement. The Summer Literacy Camp also provides professional development for participating teachers and Loras College pre-service teachers.
Ranking. Revenue. Relief. Reputation

by Sandra Gonzales-Denham ('05), Director of Annual Giving

One way Loras College measures pride is through alumni giving. Supporting the Loras Fund is one very important way all alumni can show their pride in Loras and make a meaningful difference.

The Loras Fund supports financial aid, the Loras Experience, and the College's daily operations. Gifts to the Loras Fund help make attending Loras more affordable, and provide 96% of students with financial aid.

This spring renew your commitment to your alma mater. Here are four reasons why your gift to the Loras Fund is needed.

**Ranking:** Alumni giving percentages influence scores in U.S. News & World Report and other collegiate ranking systems.

**Revenue:** The Loras Fund is a critical source of unrestricted revenue to support operations. It keeps the lights on and tuition rates low.

**Relief:** The Loras Fund provides financial aid relief to many Loras students.

**Reputation:** Our reputation among peer institutions is shaped, in part, by alumni participation rates.

We need your help in sustaining Loras College and its mission. Your generosity will help increase the value of your Loras degree and will help ensure Loras' bright future.

Last year, 21% of graduates made a gift. Our goal is to have a graduate giving percentage of at least 30%. Every two hundred gifts equal a percentage point. Your gift, regardless of size, will have an impact.

To make a tax-deductible gift please go to [www.loras.edu/donate](http://www.loras.edu/donate).

Loras' fiscal year ends May 31.
Loras Alumni Online Community

This February, the Alumni Office launched a new community site aimed at increasing the ease and simplicity of user navigation. This new, intuitive workflow will provide alumni the ability to update their individual profile pages, register for multiple events at once, and easily check the monthly calendar for upcoming events and activities. Find an old roommate on the site’s new and improved Alumni Directory available only to logged in and verified users. Connect with other Loras alumni with links to the alumni Facebook and Linked In pages, or request an Email for Life, which allows you to receive a loras.edu email address.

So, why the change? Among many deciding factors, one of the main reasons for the change is the seamless and dynamic link to the alumni database, which will continue to provide us with accurate information, updated data, and more user-friendly design. The website requires you to log in, this will protect the information of all of our Duhawks, but with the new system, you will be able to determine user name and password. In addition, creating a profile and logging in will allow you access to information others surfing the site will not see. Logging in will also speed up registration for events as fields will be prepopulated.

Make sure to stop by our new web site at loras.edu/alumni, and create your personal profile page and decide what information you would like to share with others. Do we know about your latest career or have you moved recently? Perhaps we still have your parents address listed and we have lost touch with you.

Take a few minutes and log on today! See what events are coming up on the monthly calendar, and enjoy the added simplicity of navigating through your online campus community http://www.loras.edu/alumni.