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Communications

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Katie Loftin ('15) Excelled as a Student and Developed Life Skills

At times during her Gardner-Webb University career, Katie Elizabeth Faith Loftin ('15) questioned her choice to major in biology and minor in chemistry. But with the help of a supportive faculty, she excelled academically and learned more than scientific concepts, laws and theories.

“My experience at Gardner-Webb prepared me for a career in a variety of ways. Most tangibly, it taught me how to be confident and more outgoing,” shared Loftin, who plans to pursue a career in photography while working as a veterinary technician.

“I was challenged to present scientific material in front of many professors and answer their questions thoughtfully,” she added. “Through that, I learned how to handle the stress and pressure of interview-type questions from people who know a lot more about the subject I’m presenting than I do.”

She also learned to get along with people from different backgrounds and how to manage her time between studying and playing volleyball.

“There is a lot of diversity at Gardner-Webb and from that, you learn to respect the views of others and solidify your own personal views and values,” she observed. “I also think volleyball shaped me to prepare for the stress of time management. Time was precious during college and having to plan around practice, weights, travel, games and school was quite challenging. After making it four years of doing that, I feel equipped to handle tasks of all sorts with good time-management skills.”

Loftin also served as secretary of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, was a member of Tri Beta, Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Sigma Zeta and was inducted into Alpha Chi student honor society. She balanced academics and athletics and made an impression on her professors, who selected her as the Most Outstanding Female Graduate.

“I was so honored that professors chose me and noticed all the hard work that was put into their classes over the years,” Loftin affirmed. “I will cherish that honor and the wonderful professors I had for many, many years to come.”

Loftin came to Gardner-Webb from Chattanooga, Tenn., because a friend recommended the volleyball program. She attended a summer volleyball camp and toured the campus in the fall for an official visit.

“I just felt as though this was where God wanted me to be,” she reflected. “After experiencing the Gardner-Webb culture, I knew it was where I wanted to spend my college years. I liked that I could get involved in Christian activities and worship services and grow in my faith and develop friendships.”

While the classes in the Department of Natural Sciences were challenging, the professors took the time to make sure students understood the material.

“I would describe the faculty as genuine, passionate, and excellent. I’ve had multiple professors that went above and beyond to help me,” she observed. “They absolutely push you to become the best student possible, but it is evident they hope to see you succeed. The faculty taught me how to study and critically think for myself.”