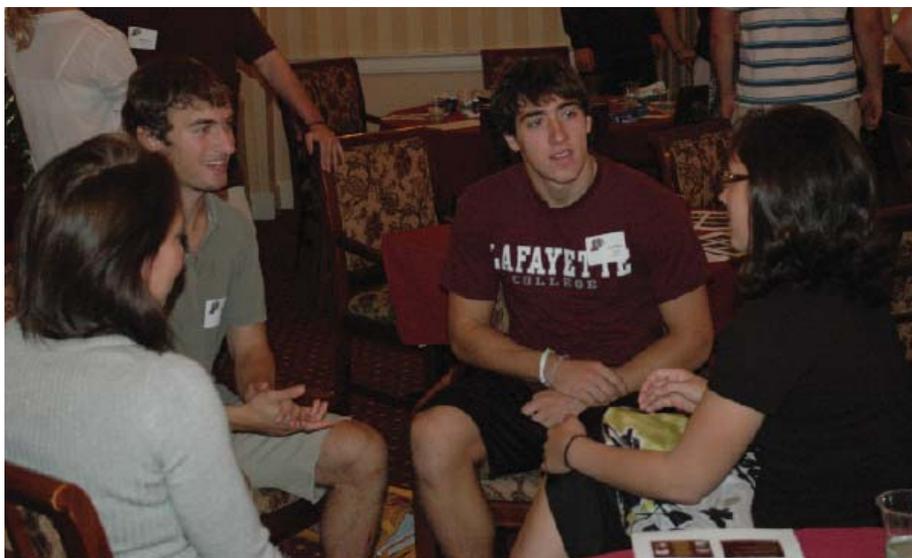


Oaks Leadership Academy

Program is guiding Lafayette's next generation of leaders by developing, challenging and supporting coaches and student-athletes in their continual quest to become world class leaders in academics, athletics and life.

By Lafayette Athletic Communications



David Kugel '13, a member of the College's swimming and diving team, talks with and several other student-athletes in the Oaks Leadership Academy.

A great deal of attention is focused on a Division I athletic department, specifically its coaches and student-athletes, and what is happening on the playing field. Lafayette provides the resources necessary to succeed on the field and in the classroom. But what about inside the locker room? How about life after the four years spent on College Hill?

The Oaks Leadership Academy is a program designed to develop Lafayette's next generation of leaders by developing, challenging and supporting coaches and student-athletes in their continual quest to become world class leaders in academics, athletics and life.

The program provides comprehensive and cutting edge leadership development programming through interactive workshops, 360-degree

feedback, one-on-one coaching, peer mentoring, supplemental on-line training and educational resources.

"The Oaks Leadership Academy is a comprehensive, ongoing approach to formal leadership development that helps student-athletes be more successful during their college careers," Director of Athletics Bruce McCutcheon said. "It also builds lifelong skills that provide our student-athletes with a powerful competitive advantage in today's challenging job market."

Student-athletes are chosen by their coaches to participate in the program, which has two sessions per semester, and are divided into three steps; emerging leaders, veteran leaders and leadership 360.

"A good leader has a broad view

of the team," head women's soccer coach Mick Statham said, whose team is off to its best Patriot League start in program history. "When choosing a leader, it is imperative that the rest of the team trusts them and they can represent the team to their coach and then go back to the team and deliver the coach's message. Our emerging leaders, Avery Jackson and Catherine Galgano, are well-liked within the team and also have a great relationship with me."

The emerging leaders program is the first part of the three-step program and is designed to train sophomore and junior student-athletes and provide them with insight, strategy and the skill necessary to become effective leaders.



Mick Statham led the women's soccer program to a 9-6-2 record in 2011 and the No. 2 seed in the Patriot League Tournament

After the year-long emerging leaders program, the participants enter the veteran leaders stage where the student-athletes are taught how to become effective vocal leaders by learning how to manage and conquer the daily responsibility of being a leader.

The program includes student-athletes from all 23 varsity sports and randomly groups them with members of other teams. Each workshop is led by Dr. Greg Shelley of Jansen Peak Performance, which partnered with Lafayette to establish the program. The goal is to help the leaders learn from others and improve their leadership qualities by sharing their experiences and the lessons they have learned.

“We talk about different leadership qualities and the different things your teammates look for in a leader, how you can provide those qualities, and how you can better yourself,” senior cornerback Brandon Ellis said. “If you lead by example, then you want to work on your vocal skills and if you are a vocal leader, then you try to improve and make sure you are one of the hardest workers on the team. It helps you round yourself out as a leader.”

The final part of the program is the Leadership 360 stage where the participants who completed both previous steps undergo an evaluation of their leadership skills. The 360 evaluation involves teammates, coaches and a self-evaluation that clearly shows the areas of strength and where improvement is needed. This encourages leaders to apply their skills to life after athletics as they enter post-college life.

In May of 2012, Ellis will graduate with a degree in Economics & Business and enter the workforce.



Cornerback Brandon Ellis '12 is a recent participant in the Oaks Leadership Academy.

“I think going through the program will help me, and has helped me, be aware of my leadership qualities. Always being composed, confident and working hard enhances your credibility as a leader and will help me in anything that I do.”

Because the program is in the midst of its second year, the Leadership 360 stage has not been completed by any of the current program participants. Following a generous donation to endow the Oaks Leadership Academy from Cynthia Oaks Linville '80 and Judson C. Linville '79, in

honor of Dr. Wilbur Wilson Oaks '51, the department is confident the program will continue for the foreseeable future, enabling the Leadership 360 phase to be completed.

“It was a huge surprise to me and I couldn't be happier that my daughter and her husband named the program after me,” Dr. Oaks said. “Motivation and leadership have always been qualities that I have believed in and it's great to see the program take shape the way it has.”

