



*Speech delivered by Jason Love at the Xavier University faculty and staff athletic appreciation luncheon on September 14, 2009.*

College initially appeared so simple to me. Pick a major, “easy,” go to class, “that’s easy,” and play basketball, “even easier.” Little did I know that there was a lot more in being a good college student and even more involved due to the fact that I was a student-athlete. As a freshman I was thrust into the core classes of math, theology, science, history, English and so forth. As confident as I was in my academic ability, I found it difficult managing my time between basketball and academics, as most freshman athletes do as well. Xavier is a very demanding academic institution, as I’m sure many of you know, and as hard and important the core classes were, I still had trouble deciding on a major and more importantly finding my passion. It wasn’t until I took a Career and Life Planning course, when I really started to figure out what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. In the class we did numerous amounts of which I thought were needless exercises, but we did one specifically in which we tried to match certain prolific names on campus with the major they studied when they were in college. There was Mike Bobinski, who studied Business, “I thought that made sense,” Father Graham who studied Theology, “I figured anyone could have guessed that, then there was Coach Miller who studied Communications. I can’t explain why but a light immediately went off in my head and from that point on I wanted to become a college coach. After this great awakening I talked to Sister Roseanne and she suggested maybe studying Sociology and how it would be a good approach to achieving my goal of someday becoming a college coach being that it had everything to do with dealing with people, which coaching has a lot to do with. I then met Professor Weissbuch, a lot of my teammates had taken him before and I heard he was really old and thought that “this might

be the most boring class I might ever take at Xavier.” To his credit though I was wrong, throughout his classes I’ve learned about the characteristics of various cultures as well as where his son’s band is playing every other week. Through his class and many others required through the Sociology department I’ve learned leadership techniques, group dynamics and cultural maxims that I’m positive will help me lead my teammates in our quest for another A-10 title this year. Despite the passion I’ve found in the sociology department, the core program, more specifically its professors, have had an impact on me becoming a better student and more engaging individual. Father Larocca and his passion for his History classes encompassed by his lightheartedness and hilarious sarcasm, Professor Mike Gehner and his uplifting attitude everyday in Biology class, Professor Richard Polt and his ability to question everything and never take anything for granted through the use of Philosophy, and Professor Stephanie Moiser and her positive attitude and energy in the field of mathematics along with many others throughout the core program have had a significant impact on me. For me getting a degree has always been very important for me. Growing up my dad always made sure that my academics never took a backseat to basketball. There was a lot of crime and drugs surrounding me throughout my neighborhood but basketball kept me away from that and has opened up more opportunities for me than I ever imagined. Despite all that basketball has given me, I know that it will end someday and having an academic background and experience from Xavier to lean on will be invaluable. At the end of next semester I will finally be finished with my academic career and the expression and emotion that will be on my dad’s face will mean more to me than any basketball experience can ever provide.

