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A Love Affair with Fisher

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Abstract

In lieu of an abstract, below is the essay's first paragraph.

"St. John Fisher College. These four words are an easy way to describe where I have spent the majority of the last 12 years of my life.

My courtship with Fisher first began when I was a junior in high school. I had friends who attended this college and after only one visit, I was hooked. This place seemed so warm and welcoming. An added bonus: Fisher was small enough that I didn't feel overwhelmed, yet large enough that I could experience some diversity. Having gone to a smaller high school, these were two very important things to consider when choosing a school. I loved it here. When it came time to apply for college, Fisher was the first one on my list. Lucky for me, I was accepted and began my undergraduate work in the fall of 2002."



Brittany Broderick

A Love Affair with Fisher

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My courtship with Fisher first began when I was a junior in high school. I had friends who attended this college and after only one visit, I was hooked. This place seemed so warm and welcoming. An added bonus: Fisher was small enough that I didn't feel overwhelmed, yet large enough that I could experience some diversity. Having gone to a smaller high school, these were two very important things to consider when choosing a school. I loved it here. When it came time to apply for college, Fisher was the first one on my list. Lucky for me, I was accepted and began my undergraduate work in the fall of 2002.

Although I started my freshman year with a different major in mind, I quickly realized that I was unsure of exactly which direction was best for my future. I took a variety of courses, including religion with Fr. Costanzo; however, I found my true passion in psychology.

To me, the psychology wing was a sacred place. I can't tell you the number of times I came into that hallway with smiles (or tears) and those office doors were always open for us to come in and chat, completely void of judgment. My advisor, Dr. Tim Franz, was particularly instrumental in my college-to-career experience. He not only supported me during these 4 years of undergrad, but throughout graduate school and beyond. One thing that was so unique in my experience at Fisher was how personally committed our professors were. I always felt that they truly cared not only about our education, but also our wellbeing. I am so thankful to have had such wonderful connections with these influential people throughout such formative and critical years of my life. I now consider Fr. Costanzo, Tim and others not only as past professors, but as colleagues and more importantly, friends.

After I graduated from Fisher with my Bachelor's in Psychology in 2006, I began my graduate work in the very same place. I finished my Master's in Mental Health Counseling in 2008 and after a few years of working in the Rochester community, I returned to Fisher as an employee in the Wellness Center in 2011.

Although I began as only part time, I was hired full time a year later. The following year, my job expanded to include health and wellness education. I now work with students on substance related issues in the office as well as engage in a number of outreach programs focused

on health and wellness. In 2012, I began a new and totally unexpectedly amazing adventure as an adjunct for the Psychology Department.

As for my home and personal life, things couldn't be better. My husband, Dustin, and I got married on New Year's Eve in 2010. He is an engineer and project manager at Ecolab in Victor, NY. We don't have any children (yet), but we do own an 8 year old Lab and Rottweiler mix named Levi, whom we absolutely adore. Dustin is an avid hunter, triathlete, and outdoorsman. I'm an avid runner and I'm also a personal trainer during my summers off. Lastly, Dustin and I were fortunate enough to have just closed on a home in Canandaigua, NY on 35 beautiful acres.

As a Fisher alum, I feel I have a special connection with this community and I couldn't be more excited to work with students on a daily basis. This college has undoubtedly formed me into the confident, responsible and open minded person I am today. The lessons I've learned here, both as a student and as an employee, are invaluable and I feel it's my duty to pay it forward. Therefore, every single day that I step on this campus, I strive to positively impact my students' lives in the same way that the faculty and staff did so for me-way back when.



Brittany, husband Dustin, and their family dog, Levi