College experience
Blugold Fellow balances research, studies with athletics

By Simone Peloquin
Leader-Telegram staff

As an athletic all-American, Blugold Fellow and an academic all-star, UW-Eau Claire senior Beth Lutz doesn’t have a lot of time for other activities. “I have always been busy,” Lutz said. “In high school I was in three sports and took AP classes; I have definitely become used to it. It always seems to work out.”

Lutz earned all-American honors by placing 29th in the NCAA cross country meet. Only four women have earned the honor at UW-Eau Claire in the last 15 years.

As a secondary education major with concentrations in physics and history, Lutz has made the dean’s list every semester and carries a 3.98 GPA.

When Lutz applied for scholarships and admission to UW-Eau Claire in the fall of 2005, she was chosen for a Blugold Fellowship. Fellowships are given out to about 20 incoming freshmen each year.

The program matches freshmen with faculty mentors and is designed to get students involved in student-faculty collaborative research projects in their first two years at UW-Eau Claire.

“Lutz said. “It is cool to be able to get started right away.”

Lutz will work in the Chippewa Valley Center for Economic Research and Development. Lutz is now working on a project that evaluates the effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Agriculture fresh fruit and vegetable program in Wisconsin schools.

“It is a cool project because it pairs psychology with school teaching experience and research work,” Lutz said.

This fall Lutz will work in selected Eau Claire schools to localize the data from the program.

See SCHOOL, Page 5A

School/UW-EC student will localize data

from Page 3A

poster presentations for the Wisconsin Economics Association, the UW System Symposium for Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity and for UW-Eau Claire’s Student Research Day.

Lutz’s first effort with her mentor Eric Jameiske, a professor in the department of economics, was an economic indicators project through the Chippewa Valley Center for Economic Research and Development. Lutz is now working on a project that evaluates the effectiveness of the U.S. Department of Agriculture fresh fruit and vegetable program in Wisconsin schools.

“Lutz said. “It is a cool project because it pairs psychology with school teaching experience and research work,” Lutz said.

This fall Lutz will work in selected Eau Claire schools to localize the data from the program.

Jameiske said Lutz has been “wonderful to work with.”

“Lutz said. “It is very rewarding to see a student go that far in a short amount of time.”

Evans said very few schools have this kind of program for freshmen, and that it allows students to really understand early on what college is about.

“Lutz said. “It is a real all-American. She gives research presentations; not many people do that in their second year. She has so close to a 4.0 GPA, that kind of package doesn’t come around that often,” Evans said.

Eau Claire Leader Telegram 9/1/08