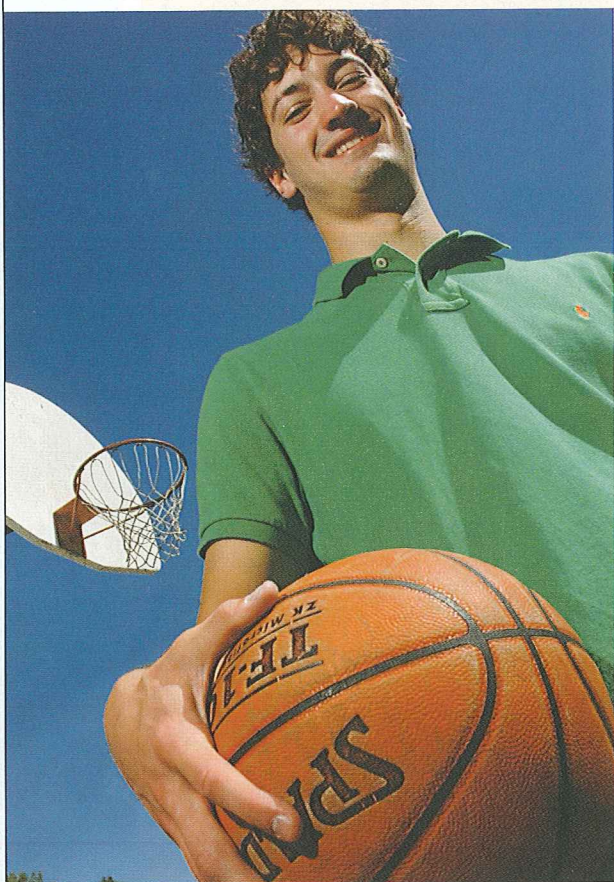


RC athletes also fast on health careers track



Jeff Leiter '07

Jeff Leiter '07, Sara Keller '08 and Virginia Anne Hagood '09 are all students on the pre-med track — and all play basketball for Roanoke College. To say their lives are busy would be an understatement, but they would have it no other way. The very pressure they're under makes them perform well. It is the time-management skill necessary to fit in demanding courses — Leiter and Keller are biology-chemistry majors, while Hagood is majoring in biology — that makes them able to juggle academics with their athletics. And it is their competitiveness — in the classrooms and on the courts — that spurs them on.

These Roanoke College students illustrate an interest that many athletes have in health-related majors. James Buriak, an associate professor and co-chair of the education, health and human performance department, says

the opportunities Roanoke College's athletes have with leadership, discipline and time management all lend themselves well to academic success.

"There are strong correlations," he says. "If you look at the retention of our athletes, their strong work ethic carries over into the classroom. And because, unfortunately, a lot of them have been injured and exposed to the medical system, they see how rewarding the health profession is. If you are going to be a physician, you have to have good leadership skills and good people skills, and they learn that working with their teams. There is so much carry-over from competition."

Leiter, a dean's list student, was a senior shooting guard on the basketball team who is currently applying to medical schools. He spent about 25 hours each week on the basketball court and says he's attracted to the medical field because he wants to make a difference. His love of competition also keeps him going.

"Fear of failure drives me, whether it means being part of a team and not getting enough playing time or getting a bad grade," he says. "The free time you have, you utilize."

Dr. Gary Hollis, associate professor of chemistry, recognizes the competitiveness of athletes in the classroom and says they tend to follow through well. "Many of our science students do sports, and it helps with their discipline. They're forced to manage time in ways that other students don't. They're goal oriented and very competitive, and all that can be an asset in the classroom and beyond."

Scott Allison '79, director of athletics and the men's soccer coach, first noticed this as a student when he was a member of the national championship lacrosse team in 1978. He recalls teammate **Dr. Kevin Lynch '78**, now practicing in Baltimore, who missed practice two to three times a week. "He got there when he could," Allison says. "We were proud to

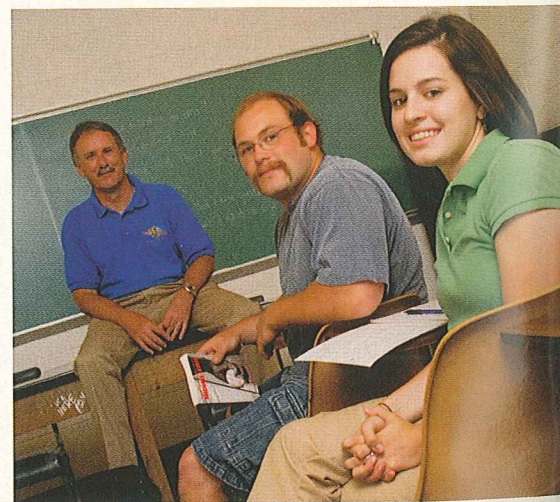
have him on our team. We certainly supported him in his pursuits. He was a very good long stick defenseman who helped us win."

Bruce Solomon '80, an economics major, was on the same championship lacrosse team and took another approach to the medical field. He works

"You have to be on top of your game, as a doctor, as a physical therapist, and be at a high level every day. Athletes do that every day."

— Scott Allison '79

for Harvard Medical International, developing health systems around the world. After graduating from Roanoke, he earned a master's in business administration and a master's in public health and then did a two-year post-graduate fellowship in health policy. He experienced the same time constraints students do today but says athletics



Track and field athletes Jennifer Doughman '09 and Bobby Hoffert '08 spent May Term in an intensive-learning course called *The Science of Sports*. Both are on the health-careers track and enjoyed Dr. Roland Minton class, which covered the physics of how collisions occur or balls travel and a statistical analysis of sports.