A Person of Interest

It might not show in his demeanor, but the evidence proves Senior Jesse Jennings is focused on law. The criminal justice major from Robbinsdale, Minn., plans to make the law his life and he is set on a path destined to take him there.

“I enjoy school, and academics has always been important to me,” Jennings says. “I was recruited to play baseball at Crookston, and I didn’t think I would have the chance to play ball and pursue a degree related to the law field.” A visit to campus sealed the deal and Jennings combined Golden Eagle Baseball with the pursuit of his degree.

“My grandparents on my dad’s side were both in the military, and I had some interest there, but I really wanted to go to college,” Jennings recalls. “My dad told me to get involved on campus and not just earn my degree.” He took those words to heart; besides playing baseball and studying, he serves as the Regents Representative for the Crookston Student Association, is a member of the National Society of Leadership and Success, Alpha Lambda Delta, and the Student Athletic Advisory Committee. He also tutors students in statistics and any of the criminal justice classes.

He was certain he would be heading to law school after graduation, and he says the textbook in his criminal law class is more like a novel to him. “I am so interested in criminal law, and in many ways, the class provides insight into what the future may hold for me,” Jennings explains.

“My student experience has given me more than I expected, and I now see that my degree opens up other opportunities and more than just law school. I am also finding federal law enforcement intriguing.”

Jennings thinks playing baseball has only enhanced his academic experience by teaching him right from the start to stay on top of his class work. “There are requirements we have as student-athletes, and they are in place to help us succeed,” he recalls. “I know that they contributed to my early success as a student.”

As the Regents Representative, Jennings recounts meeting members of the Board of Regents and networking with students from the other U of M campuses as well. “I have been impressed by the work of both Board members and the student representatives from the system campuses,” Jennings says. “I enjoy being a part of what is happening with the capital request for a wellness center on the Crookston campus and lending my voice to the discussion.”

Jennings is considering starting a law club for students interested in careers in law with baseball teammate Sophomore Trevor Buttermore. “I like the idea of having a club where students interested in the law can come together from across majors and connect,” he states. “I think it would be a great opportunity to exchange ideas, network with professionals, and share our mutual interest.”

The club might still be in the early stages, but Jennings is looking ahead to the Law School Admission Test. He will finish his final season of baseball, and with his undergraduate degree in hand, he is set for the next step, and it’s the one he has been ready to take for a long time.