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Dear Alumni and Friends,

All of us at Loras are pleased to enter into a new season, but we have not forgotten all of the great winter successes, a few which include:

- Loras hosted the 23rd Annual National Mock Trial Invitational Tournament, in which Loras finished sixth out of nearly 70 colleges and universities from across the country;
- Loras celebrating its 100th anniversary of the Loras Players as it hosted Broadway costume designer Barak Stribling (’81) for Project Runway—Dubuque Style.

In the months ahead, you will read or see any number of successes and improvements including:

- Loras being named a College of Distinction by CollegesofDistinction.com based upon four key criteria: engaged students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes;
- Upgrades to the student dining area in the Alumni Campus Center, thanks to the generosity of ARAMARK, Inc., which will cost almost $1M and include open access to the concourse, later evening dining, a sandwich and coffee bar, more comfortable seating and flat screen televisions;
- Major renovating in the Gruber Sports Center, including a brand new floor, upgraded lighting, new curtains and interior painting thanks to the generosity of an anonymous couple;
- Funding from a federal grant to provide the Cox Street renovation upgrades for Phase I of the project which includes creation of a pedestrian mall, lighting, landscaping and seating;
- Relocating the Grotto to a more accessible and prominent location on the northeast corner of Wahlert Hall, permitting plans to continue for the new science facility expansion, a wonderful opportunity made possible by Regent Jim Davis (’69) in memory of his late wife, Jane.

This issue of The Loras College Magazine features the last of a two-part series on liberal arts learning. This particular feature incorporates reflections of several alumni on their liberal arts experiences at Loras. Given world-wide struggles in the workforce and economy, the value of the liberal arts has never been more necessary. Further, with all of the global political, moral and social challenges, the Catholic and human dignity components of the Loras College experience are perhaps most fulfilling. Therefore, in this issue, I encourage you to read the heartwarming stories highlighting Tyler Steinke and our women’s basketball team as well as Hannah Kauffold and our concert choir.

These stories, recent accomplishments and upcoming initiatives serve as the true measure of our success as a Catholic liberal arts institution. The value of a Loras College degree has never been greater, the need for all of our alumni to be proud and advocate has never been so easy, and the complicated and competitive environment in which we face has never caused me to challenge alumni to “give back” in a manner we should all feel both compelled and obligated.

I am proud of Loras and look forward to partnering with you on our promising future which allows future generations of students to receive the strong faith-based education that Loras College always provides.

God Bless,

James E. Collins (’84)
President
Faculty and Staff Recognitions


Robert Dunn, Ph.D. ('70), professor of psychology, and Cătălin Mamali, Ph.D., adjunct professor of psychology, have had their article, “The Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Effects of Crucial Experiences,” accepted for publication in the *Journal of Loss and Trauma*.

Dianne Gibson, director of the Lynch Office of Disability Services, was reappointed to a three-year term on the Iowa Supreme Court Grievance Commission in August 2010. The appointment as a lay member runs until June 30, 2013.

Mike Gibson (MA ’91), college archivist and director of the Center for Dubuque History at Loras, was a guest on Michael Feldman’s “Whad Ya Know?” two-hour comedy, quiz and interview radio show when it came to Dubuque in October. The show originates in Madison, Wis., but every few months does a live broadcast in cities around the country. Gibson responded to Feldman’s “off the cuff” questions about Dubuque and Loras College history. Feldman’s show, in its 25th year, is produced by Wisconsin Public Radio and distributed to 797 National Public Radio (NPR) stations across the U.S. by Public Radio International.

Sandra Gonzales-Denham ('05), director of the Loras Fund, has been elected to serve as the vice president/president-elect for the Association of Fundraising Professionals Greater Tri-State Chapter.

Lisa Grinde, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology, Nancy Zachar Fett, L.M.S.W. ('90), associate professor of social work, and Maggie Baker, service learning coordinator, had an article entitled, “Collaborating with community partners on course design: From inception to delivery to follow-up,” published in *Quick Hits for Service-Learning: Successful Strategies by Award-Winning Teachers*, a publication developed by the Indiana Campus Compact 2007-2008 cohort of Faculty Fellows and published by Indiana University Press in November 2010.


Kevin Koch, Ph.D. ('81), professor of English, had, “In Defense of Winter,” published in *The Wapsipinicon Almanac*. He also held readings from his book, *The Driftless Land: Spirit of Place in the Upper Mississippi Valley*, at the following locations: St. Mary’s University-Winona, UW-La Crosse, Foundry Book Store (Mineral Point), Swiss Valley (Dubuque), and the Mines of Spain (Dubuque).


Kenneth McLaughlin, Ph.D., professor of physics and engineering, has co-authored a manuscript entitled “Production of Excited Atomic Hydrogen and Deuterium from H2, HD and D2 Photo-dissociation,” that was recently accepted for publication in an international journal dedicated to research in atomic and molecular physics (*Journal of Physics B*, Institute of Physics Publishing, Bristol, UK).

Seth D. Myers, M.F.A., assistant professor of art and communication, had a large-scale multimedia installation entitled, “Samuel’s Glacier,” included in the sixth annual Voices from the Warehouse District premier art exhibition at the Voices Warehouse Gallery in Dubuque. Featured in the show were 15 regional and national artists. Loras college students who helped on the project included: Katie Duffy (’11) (Chicago, Ill.), Levi Boyd (’11) (Dubuque, Iowa), Michael McCarty (’11) (Alton, Iowa) and Katie Lally (’11) (Vail, Iowa).

Amanda Osheim, Ph.D., assistant professor of practical theology, made the following presentations this past fall: “Faith, Choices, and Vocation,” for the Breitbach Catholic Thinkers and Leaders Program and “Snapshots of Mary’s Discipleship,” for Kickin’ with CORE Team, Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

James Pollock, Ph.D., associate professor of English, published the following poems:

Pollock also published the following critical essays:

David Pitt, Ph.D., assistant professor sacramental/liturgical theologian, presented the paper, “Nativity and Naming: A Tentative Contribution to the Computation Hypothesis,” at the annual meeting of the North American Academy of Liturgy held Jan. 6-9, in San Francisco. He also had the article, “Incarnation and Eschaton in Olivier Messiaen’s Le Verbe,” published as the lead article in the January 2011 edition of *Logos: A Journal of Catholic Thought and Culture*. He also presented the lecture, “Sacraments: Past, Present, and Future Living with God,” in January at St. Patrick Parish in Dubuque.

David Salyer, Ph.D., associate professor of education, Keli Keyes, Loras for Literacy clinical instructor, and Brenda Hostager, Loras for Literacy program coordinator, launched a unique on-campus reading clinic for at-risk second and third grade students who had previously attended the Loras for Literacy Summer Literacy Camp. The reading clinic focuses on developing print-based and online reading comprehension strategies using a reciprocal teaching instructional framework. The clinic was funded through a federal grant.

Matthew A. Shadle, Ph.D., assistant professor moral theology, had the article, “Cavanaugh on the Church and the Modern State: An Appraisal,” published in the theological journal *Horizons* in Fall 2010.
Bryan Strickler, Ph.D., assistant professor of English, Maggie Baker, service learning coordinator, and Jordan DeGree from the Dubuque Art Center co-facilitated the training session, *Structuring Volunteer Projects/Service-Learning Requirements for Millennial Students, and Developing Service-Learning Community Partnerships* with colleagues from Coe College at the 2010 Iowa Nonprofit Summit held in Ames, Iowa, Nov. 15-16. The workshop incorporated two presentations focused on developing service-learning partnerships and research findings on how to structure volunteer/service-learning placements for millennial students.

Dedra Tentis, Ph.D., associate professor of criminal justice and Lieutenant Colonel in the United States Air Force, was awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal for Outstanding Achievement from May - September 2010, while deployed to the Middle East as the Inspector General of the largest deployed Air Force Wing.

Nancy Zachar Fett, L.M.S.W. (’90), associate professor of social work, presented, “The Nuts and Bolts of Integrating Community Partners into Course Preparation,” at the Baccalaureate Program Directors Conference in February in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Loras College welcomed Don Ulrich (’58) to the Board of Regents at the fall board meeting in October while saying farewell and thank you to Eldon Herrig (’49) for eight years of dedicated service.

Ulrich received his bachelor’s degree in English from Loras College in 1958, then attended Drake University to earn his master’s degree and became a high school English teacher. He eventually left teaching to work for The Coca-Cola Company as a route driver and, over the course of 20 years, worked his way up to the position of the company’s vice president.

Ulrich has served as chairman of Arizona State University Foundation and chairman of the 1999 Capital Campaign Committee, where he raised more than $600 million for the program. He partnered in the development of *Waste Not*, a program to help feed the hungry in metropolitan Phoenix, worked on a documentary in Africa titled, *Food for the Hungry*, and volunteered a year reorganizing the Arizona government through the Office for Excellence in Government, which he originated. He has also served as a board member for a variety of organizations.

“Loras College is honored to welcome Mr. Ulrich to the Board. He is committed to the growth and ongoing success of the College,” noted President Jim Collins (’84). “Further, he will provide Loras with the expertise and vision to advance our strategic initiatives.”

Herrig, who served on the board since October 2002, was voted to emeritus status at the spring 2011 meeting. He is the founder of Herrig & Herrig Financial Services, Inc., and served 50 years in the insurance industry. Herrig has generously shared his time, talents and financial resources with several organizations in the Dubuque community, including: Dubuque Community Schools, Archdiocese of Dubuque, Convention and Visitors Center of Dubuque, United Way, Catholic Charities and St. Mark’s Community Center. He also received numerous awards and was named the Telegraph Herald’s First Citizen in 1995.
Loras College has a strong and competitive media studies department, which consistently provides students with hands-on experience in a variety of aspects of television production. As the technology in the field is ever-changing and improving, it is important for the school to be able to train students with the most up-to-date equipment.

An $86,000 grant from the Dubuque Teleprogramming Commission funded upgrades to Loras’ TV studio and control room. In particular, the media studies program installed high-definition studio cameras and a high-definition video switcher.

“This grant provided our students with the opportunity to produce some of the very highest quality programming for the Dubuque community, and at the same time, provide a state-of-the-art learning opportunity,” explained Craig Schaefer (’89), professor of communication arts. “This is not just an investment in our students, but in expanded opportunities to produce and share some of the great stories that are happening in and around Dubuque.”

Loras College students produce a multitude of shows for the greater Dubuque community including award-winning newscast and sports shows, which are produced live every Wednesday at 7 p.m. and subsequently re-run at various times on Mediacom channel 17.

“The media studies students at Loras have had great success with news, sports and a variety of other television shows produced in our studio,” said senior media studies major Michael McCarty (’11) (Alton, Iowa). “The improvements made possible by this grant will allow Loras students’ work to be even more impressive.”

The installation began in December and students have been utilizing the new equipment since the beginning of the 2011 spring semester.

**POINTS of PRIDE**

Kelli Theisen (’10) won the National Student Award from the national Catholic honors society, Delta Epsilon Sigma. The award is granted in recognition of outstanding achievements in service and scholarship as an undergraduate. Theisen graduated from Loras in 2010 with a degree in biochemistry and is currently studying optometry at Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago, Ill.
Grant to Fund Internship Away Scholarships

The Dr. Scholl Foundation has generously awarded Loras College $20,000 in funding for internship away scholarships. The funds will allow needy students with proven ability and initiative the opportunity of a regional or national internship.

Regional scholarships, awarded to students interning in the Midwest, will be at the $1,000 level, as housing and travel costs are more moderate. National scholarships at the $1,500 level will be awarded to students whose internships take them to cities with higher costs like New York, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. These scholarships will assist with the cost of housing, food, clothing and transportation.

Students competing for scholarships will be selected through an application process based on financial need, past performance and the estimated quality of the proposed internship experience.

The funding provided through this grant is in addition to the Dr. Scholl Scholarship Fund previously created at Loras.
Parents Take an Active Role by Giving Back

BY TROY RABBETT ('06), DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

College costs can be expensive: tuition, room and board, books and spending money. These things can all contribute to one big bill back home. However, with the exception of a few, most students do not realize the impact that their college decision has on family finances. So, in an era of job loss, foreclosures and the worst economic climate since the 1980s, what could possibly make a family want to give back to Loras while their son or daughter is still enrolled as a student?

The answer, according to Luigi and Pina Di Pasquale, is emersion. Luigi and Pina are the parents of Loras College junior Anna Di Pasquale (Northbrook, Ill). “It’s important for us as parents to have Anna at a school that builds on our beliefs as Catholics, and Loras does that. We have a strong faith in Catholic education and the values which support it, and through the Loras Fund, we feel we are able to live out the example of giving back that we want to share with our daughter.”

And since the time Anna arrived on campus, the Di Pasquales have made a conscious effort to build on their passion for Catholic education. This type of commitment by parents is something that does not go unnoticed according to Sandra Gonzales-Denham ('05), director of the Loras Fund. “Philanthropic support from parents and guardians is a great example to our students of the importance of giving back and supporting organizations that provide the community with a valuable service.”

The Loras Fund is a foundation for the basic operations of the College. This fund creates opportunities for students to study abroad, participate on service trips and experience internships all across the country. The Loras Fund also contributes to the campus environment in many ways, providing for technology in the classrooms, instruments in the laboratories and equipment for athletics. As these are part of nearly every Loras student’s experience, it is easy to see how the Loras Fund plays a significant role in every student’s daily life.

Perhaps most importantly, donations to the Loras Fund provide financial aid to students in need. Nearly 100% of students receive gift aid from the College, 73% of whom also receive need-based aid. Giving to the Loras Fund not only helps current students but also those who plan to attend Loras in the coming years. This, according to Gonzales-Denham, “…sends an unmistakable message of trust in Loras, to provide students with a meaningful education and demonstrates a family’s commitment to Loras’ bright future.”

And that bright future is something Pina Di Pasquale says goes well beyond a student’s time at Loras. “Anna, just like every other student at Loras, is gaining skills and learning things that are not only helping them now, but will continue to help them stand out as they transition into the job market and real life.”

At present, about 11% of parents of current students contribute to the Loras Fund. Every gift to the Loras Fund helps the College take another step toward offering students more experience, more aid and above all, more opportunity.

“Loras is grateful to the many parents and guardians that support the College,” notes Gonzales-Denham. “Contributions made to the Loras Fund support Loras’ Catholic mission and help provide each student with an exceptional Loras experience.”

And that is something the Di Pasquales say is priceless, “That’s one of the reasons Anna chose Loras in the end, because it is a special place, one where she can learn and grow and prepare for what comes after Loras. And that too is one of the reasons we support the Loras Fund, because it encompasses the whole campus and the values of the institution.”

The Loras Fund is a great way for parents to stay actively involved in their student’s education as well as contribute to the Loras College community. As an institution, Loras is committed to offering students everything they need to succeed, both while at Loras and beyond, and the Loras Fund stands as one of the best means of achieving that goal.

If you have questions about how to get involved, or are interested in donating to the Loras Fund, please contact Sandra Gonzales-Denham, director of the Loras Fund, at (563)588-7328 or sandra.gonzales-denham@loras.edu.
Friends Believe in Honoring Her Memory

BY TROY RABBITT ('06), DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

An incredible light was extinguished from this world on March 2, 2008. Audrey Fitzgerald, a Loras College sophomore and dear friend, daughter, cousin, niece and athlete, lost her life to bacterial meningitis.

In Audrey’s short time on this earth she managed to create such an impact on the lives of her family and friends that those surviving her are striving for a proper tribute to a life which affected so many.

As Audrey’s friends struggled to cope with her passing, they also strove to ensure that her life not be forgotten. “We felt the only way to give proper recognition for the fulfilling life she led was to establish a named award for her at Loras,” said Colleen Savory ('09), a close friend of Audrey’s. Savory explains, “We wanted to establish something to help future Loras students because that is the best way to preserve Audrey’s incredible life.”

In addition to the award, several individuals will be completing the Rock ‘n’ Roll Chicago Half Marathon on Aug. 14, 2011, including: Savory, Amanda Lynch ('08), Marikate Murray ('08), Kim Chalekian ('09), Shannon Cox ('09), Kristin Engle ('09), Sarah Goodworth ('09), Maggie Huguelet ('09), Jenny O’Connor ('09), Tara Riley ('09), Rachel Whartman ('09), Alex Clesen ('10), Annie Zegarac ('11), Leah Holle (alumus) as well as a group of Audrey’s family and friends from her hometown of Independence, Iowa.

At the advent of this idea, the young ladies became aware that its reach would far surpass more than just fundraising and training for the race. They see the Audrey Fitzgerald Award as a community effort. “We have created a blog to share memories of Audrey and keep everyone up-to-date on our progress over these next few months,” said Savory.

Their initial goal is to raise $2,000 by Aug. 14, in hopes of presenting the Audrey Fitzgerald Award in the fall and to establish it as an annual award opportunity for an incoming Loras student.

In order to achieve this goal the young women are reaching out to friends and family in hopes of making this idea become reality. As recent graduates they see the financial difficulty for most of their peers. However, they hope their online presence and encouragement demonstrate that any gift, regardless of amount, will make a huge difference in honoring Audrey.

Gifts can be made online through the Loras College website at www.loras.edu/donate: simply check other in the designation box and write, “Audrey Fitzgerald Award” in the comments section. Checks can also be mailed directly to the Loras College Office of Development, noting the Audrey Fitzgerald Award in the memo.

“Audrey was loved and cherished by many,” said Savory. “It is our hope that this award, in conjunction with raising awareness about the dangers of meningitis on college campuses, will help to keep Audrey’s memory alive.”
The Impact of Liberal Arts Learning

By Cheryl Jacobsen, Ph.D., Provost and Academic Dean
This May will be my eighth year of reading approximately 300 names of graduates as they cross the stage to receive their diplomas and congratulations from family, friends and the College community. The commencement program is fairly predictable; it lists students’ full names, majors and hometowns. Academic regalia for some include honor stoles or chords. Otherwise they all wear the same cap and gown—carry-overs from medieval traditions emphasizing freedom (the cap) and equality (the gown). Loras graduates, however, also share an experience of learning most associated with the long tradition of the liberal arts—emphases on breadth of learning, freedom of critical inquiry, the development of communication abilities in a small, residential college committed to teaching practices that contribute to a holistic education suited for both the present and the future. Sometimes that experience brings students to exuberant displays of joy, thankfulness or self-assuredness—such as what may have prompted one student to kiss the provost on his way across the stage. He reconnected with me, coincidentally, as I began to write this second article on the liberal arts for the Loras magazine. More of him later.

There is a growing discussion in higher education circles recently that focuses on the liberal arts tradition. The impetus for the op ed pieces in the Chicago Tribune, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal or The Chronicle of Higher Education, or the data from professional organizations such as the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, or the Council of Independent Colleges, reflects the very real challenges facing higher education. Many of the columnists, college presidents and bloggers of various backgrounds point to the troubling economic factors, international competition and a climate of distrust and disappointment that undermine education generally, but more specifically liberal arts or liberal learning approaches. The growth of on-line, for-profit institutions further fuels a perception that education is certification in practical skills or geared exclusively to professional fields. It can also be cheap and electronically quick—easily sandwiched into the spaces of “life” since it can occur asynchronously at any time the student is awake. Here is no “frills” pragmatism unaware of real costs now and for the future of this narrow understanding of education.

In spite of the “perfect storm” facing the liberal arts—as one commentator described it, the liberal arts or liberal learning tradition may be precisely what is needed to confront and resolve the complex problems of our times. It is within this tradition that students develop the intellectual skills and the dispositions that will enable them to adapt as the world changes—including the more than 10 job and career changes they will experience during their working lives. The liberal arts curricula encourage critical and imaginative thinking, foster communication in multiple forms and develop not only tolerance but appreciation for the diversity of human perspectives. It is also from this tradition that students identify and strengthen the values that will ground them when faced with the ambiguities of a complex world.

The number of “true liberal arts” institutions has been in decline for decades, many evolving into institutions similar to Loras with significant liberal learning emphases that stress breadth of learning—the liberal arts foundation—while also providing professionally-oriented programs and experiences. The liberal arts tradition thrives at Loras College in approximately 20 majors. It is also central to the general education curriculum which is part of every student’s studies at the College, and is present in a variety of ways in the approximately 20 pre-professional majors. In Why Choose the Liberal Arts? Mark William Roche, former dean of the University of Notre Dame’s College of Arts and Letters, answers the question from three perspectives: intrinsic value of the life of the mind and exploring the “great questions,” character formation and development of a sense of vocation and cultivation of skills and attributes for a successful career. One need only make explicit the anticipated outcome of an informed citizenry to have a full-picture of the liberal arts from their origins to our contemporary context.

The dialogue around the relative merits of liberal learning, however, has added a new element. As Roche elegantly notes, “It is…not only ironic but also appealing that the very education we elevate for its intrinsic value cultivates virtues that serve meaningful external ends and prepares students for the needs and challenges of practical life, even if that is not its primary purpose” (51). As some critics and advocates for liberal learning have observed, institutions need to better articulate and justify the value of a liberal arts education since those assumptions are not widely known or held presently.
As I noted in an op ed for Dubuque’s Telegraph Herald, “we know from national surveys of corporate leaders, as well as educators, that the skills and capabilities associated with liberal learning are sought after and transferable to a wide range of professional work and service.” That fact becomes all the more important given that Americans change jobs 10 times over the 20 years after high school. National surveys confirm that employers, corporate leaders, government officials and leaders in technology want individuals with these practical and intellectual skills as well as the ability to work collaboratively, reason ethically and understand intercultural contexts.

Increasingly, specialized accrediting associations emphasize liberal learning goals as significant expectations for professional education. For example, accredited engineering programs require students to develop the full range of liberal learning capabilities alongside their technical knowledge. The same inclusion of liberal education goals can be found in accounting, health professional preparation, education policy and practice and general business curricula.

Long a proponent of liberal education, the leading higher education professional organization, the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), began such an argument with its reform initiative, “Liberal Education and America’s Promise (LEAP): Excellence for Everyone as a Nation Goes to College.” Based on a multi-year dialogue and national polls of educational leaders, analyses of a series of recommendations and reports from the business community and other policy leaders; and analyses of accreditation requirements in business, engineering, nursing and teacher education, the AAC&U framed a list of “essential learning outcomes” that all students need from higher education. The Loras College Dispositions and general education program parallel the foci suggested by the national organization, as do the several hundred courses offered at the College in majors and the learning experiences tied to those courses.

The outcomes and survey findings that led to the essential learning outcomes are detailed in AAC&U reports: Greater Expectations: A New Vision for Learning as a Nation Goes to College (2002), Taking Responsibility for Quality of the Baccalaureate Degree (2004), and Liberal Education Outcomes: A Preliminary Report on Achievement in College (2005). Released in 2010, Five High-Impact Practices: Research on Learning Outcomes, Completion, and Quality documents the connections between learning and pedagogy. As with the essential learning outcomes identified above, the teaching practices reviewed in this report have long been aligned with liberal arts/liberal learning institutions. First-year seminars, service learning, undergraduate research, capstone course or projects and integrated approaches are firmly embedded in Loras’ programs and classrooms along with the essential learning outcomes as realized in our general education curriculum.

The LEAP initiative is a two-pronged argument. First it demonstrates that liberal arts or liberal learning is central to the kind of education that is needed for “the complex and volatile world” of the 21st century and, consequently, is relevant to all employment and professional goals. Second, LEAP is a call to expand access and extend the liberal learning concept to more inclusive student populations. Explicitly AAC&U argues that:

“Reflecting the traditions of American higher education since the founding, the term ‘liberal education’ headlines the kinds of learning needed for a free society and for the full development of human talent. Liberal education has always been this nation’s signature educational tradition, and this report [College Learning for the New Global Century] builds on its core values: expanding horizons, building understanding of the wider world, honing analytical and communication skills, and fostering responsibilities beyond self...It also challenges the conventional view that liberal education is, by definition, ‘nonvocational.’” (3)
The Essential Learning Outcomes

KNOWLEDGE OF HUMAN CULTURES AND THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL WORLD

Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages and the arts

At Loras, all students study these areas in the advanced general education courses structured around five themes of aesthetics, community and identity, cultural traditions across generations, humanity and the physical universe and values for decision making. Many students also major in these disciplinary areas, while others have added exposure to them in January Term courses or electives.

INTELLECTUAL AND PRACTICAL SKILLS, INCLUDING

Inquiry and analysis, critical and creative thinking, written and oral communication, quantitative literacy, information literacy, teamwork and problem solving

Active learning and reflective thinking are identified as Loras Dispositions—two of the four global outcomes for the general education program. The four Loras Dispositions encompass many of the AAC&U’s intellectual and practical skills as well as other areas of the essential learning outcomes. For example, students’ first-year seminar, Modes of Inquiry, serves as an introduction to several of the essential outcomes as do other first-year courses in writing, public speaking and group communication and mathematics. The emphases continue in mid-level and advanced general education courses. They also permeate the majors in both the liberal arts and professional programs as well.

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, INCLUDING

Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global, intercultural knowledge and competence, ethical reasoning and action, foundations and skills for lifelong learning

One course common to all Loras students, regardless of their majors, is Democracy and Global Diversity, which has a specific focus on what it means to be a citizen. Two historic events, one from a non-western context, are role-played by students. Primary readings, critical analysis and written interpretations inform the students’ re-enactment of the French Revolution or the push for independent statehood in India—two of the more recent course pairings. At several points in the general education curriculum and in most majors, students must engage the ethical questions of their disciplines and future professions.

As examples, Ethics and the New Genetics; applied ethics in business, communication, environmental sciences, physical education and sport science; Global Inequality, among many others raise questions which advance the Loras Dispositions of ethical decision-makers and responsible contributors to society.

INTEGRATIVE AND APPLIED LEARNING, INCLUDING

Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies

Within Loras’ general education program there is an emphasis on connected knowing—comparative and contrasting approaches that explore both the capacities and limits of knowledge in any specific area. Internships, service and community-based learning, as well as other experiential components require that students learn and apply their learning in both the classroom and the field.

In fact, data collected by Hart Research Associates for the LEAP project between 2006 and 2010 confirm the need and economic value of liberal education. In “Raising the Bar: Employers’ Views on College Learning in the Wake of the Economic Downturn” (2010), 90% of employers surveyed say that they are “asking employees to take on more responsibilities and use a broader set of skills than in the past” and that “the challenges their employees face are more complex than they were in the past.”

So how does this relate to the graduating senior who kissed the provost? He had an education and opportunities for growth that are products of liberal learning in an environment that encourages student engagement. He had majors in a liberal arts discipline and a professional discipline and experienced the additional breadth of learning through his courses that met general education requirements. Active in student government and involved with campus ministry programs, he also served as the student representative to the Academic Council during the period of planning and implementing the January Term. In Council, he participated in the discussions that ranged across concerns about accelerated pedagogies, experiential learning, student recruitment, resource implications and campus policies. He got to know staff and faculty in their multiple roles inside and outside the classroom. Since graduation, he’s finished a graduate degree, worked in areas that draw upon his academic work and begun a new position which requires him to learn—quickly—a new body of technical knowledge. He is able to do that because he started developing the skills and capacities through his liberal learning experiences at Loras. He—and others—with a strong liberal learning preparation in a college environment that promotes engaged, active learning will be able to respond to the globalized knowledge economy and rapid change that characterizes contemporary life. He had good reasons to be exuberant and self-assured at commencement.

Sources:
Reflections

Liberal arts education provides students with a learning environment to cultivate their general intellectual abilities. It encourages these young scholars to explore not only the area of study in which they will major, but also to explore areas of study they simply enjoy. The broad range of enriching experiences and opportunities for personal growth touch their lives long after they leave the campus, helping them navigate a complex and ever-changing world. The following are alumni stories which express their personal journeys with, interpretation of and passion for the liberal arts.
Mark McCarville ('68)
Managing Director,
Braydon Partners, LLC

When I enrolled at Loras College my goal was to get a degree in business and find a job. The fact I would be getting a “liberal arts” education was not forefront in my mind. But once I became immersed in the coursework I discovered how interesting subjects such as history or philosophy could be and began to have a sense that getting exposed to these subjects might be important in life.

As the years have passed I have come to understand success and fulfillment in life, whether in one’s career or in relationships with others, is rooted in an understanding of the world in which we live and a clear sense on how we fit into that world. This understanding comes from an exposure to the broad range of disciplines one gets in a liberal arts education.

Although the liberal arts education I received has had an impact on me in a number of ways, one example stands out. My work often took me to many corners of the world. The interaction I had with my counterparts in these various countries was shaped, in part, by a class I took at Loras College—comparative religions. Because of what I was exposed to at Loras, I had a very basic understanding of the religious beliefs and therefore a key element of the culture of the people I was working with. Without this background I know I would have been much less open and, most likely, less comfortable in these new settings and I would like to believe that allowed me to be more successful.

When we hired young people a key attribute we looked for were individuals who “enjoyed” the world and who were not afraid to venture out and become engaged in a new environment. It was easy to recognize who had had a broad education and meaningful exposure to other cultures. But on the other hand, we often saw candidates who, although well educated, were intimidated by a new environment as the result of a narrowly-focused education and a limited exposure to different cultures.

Today, we often see world leaders make horrible political, business and military mistakes because of a basic lack of knowledge of history and their insensitivity of other cultures. This just reinforces the importance of supporting and expanding access to broad liberal arts programs and travel and immersion into other societies and cultures.

My wife and I became volunteer teachers for a year in Clarksdale, Miss. Because of my liberal arts coursework, I was able to teach at the elementary and secondary level, although my students taught me as much as I taught them.

When we returned to Dubuque, my liberal arts background helped as I began a new museum job at the Mathias Ham House. I was so enthused I got a master’s degree in museum studies and became director of the new forming Mississippi River Museum.

Today, my history and science classes are helpful whether I am writing exhibit scripts for “Lewis and Clark” or “Lizards on the Loose.” I have also been able to teach American history as an adjunct college instructor, giving me enormous pleasure and appreciation of the subject matter. My writing and speaking skills were honed at Loras and I have been able to use these skills to write grants and make public presentations.

My liberal arts education has also supported a lifelong dream of mine, to write a biography of a noted figure in the American west. To this day, I continue my research at the Loras library as well as repositories across the country. As I research, write and revise my way toward a completed manuscript, I am amazed at how this “authoring business” is so mesmerizing.

I don’t think I would have attempted these pursuits without a liberal arts education. My parents studied liberal arts and instilled their love of learning in each of their 13 children, 12 of whom attended Loras and Clarke. I hope I can pay it forward.

Jerry Enzler ('73)
Director, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

I graduated from Loras College with a degree in accounting but I am so grateful I studied liberal arts. I became an auditor in Milwaukee, but after two years my interests led me to the humanities. My liberal arts studies helped me get there.
Bob Kaliban (*'55)
President, Tymar Productions, LLC

I was a child born in the Great Depression. I could have easily refrained from divulging that pertinent fact, but I’m sure somewhere in this article there is the designation “Bob Kaliban, Loras (*'55)” and you could have figured it out for yourself. The reason I bring this fact to light is the educational opportunities for someone born around that time were very limited, especially to people from farm communities in the Midwest, and particularly Iowa. It was quite common that young girls were not given the opportunity to finish high school but were required to stay home to do the daily chores. Young boys were often forced to leave high school to work in the fields.

Unfortunately, both my parents suffered from those necessities. It is probably for this reason they worked and saved and insisted that their three children would receive a college education. I benefited immeasurably by their determination and self-sacrifice to grant me that opportunity.

I was not a brilliant scholar in high school, but somehow got mostly straight As. If I remember correctly I was the only one from my class of 16 to go on to college. Where did I choose to go? Not to Cornell College just one mile away. Not to the University of Iowa, only a half hour away. No, I chose none other than Loras College. And lo and behold, I was accepted! I’m sure there were a couple of reasons, but probably the biggest reason—there were no SAT scores to be judged by, no class rank indications, just my DESIRE to have a well-rounded college education.

I was not interested in specialization of a course of study. Wikipedia describes a true liberal arts program as: “a curriculum that imparts general knowledge and develops the student’s rational thought and intellectual capabilities.” As with many first year scholars (aka freshmen) I didn’t know if I wanted to be a lawyer, a teacher, a grocer or, God forbid, an ACTOR at the completion of my studies. I did know I wanted to further my education in literature, history, a foreign language, science and, because I was attending a Catholic college, philosophy and religion. What better place to achieve all of those prerequisites but at Loras.

Not only did I achieve them, but I felt I was somewhat of an over-achiever! I continued to get fairly good grades, I signed up for every conceivable extracurricular activity from the debating team to performing with the Loras band to writing for The Lorian to catcher on the Loras baseball team to performing with the Loras Players. And it was ultimately because of my continued work with the Loras Players that I eventually realized where my true interests were and what direction I wanted my life to take. The variety of parts I was able to perform at Loras could never have been possible at a large university or in a highly respected drama school here in America. After graduation, I attended the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London and I marveled at the background I was able to bring to those years from my extensive work with the Loras Players.

As I look back on my days in a liberal arts environment, I’m extremely confident it was the right educational choice for me. I valued greatly the small class sizes, the teacher-to-student ratio and the fact all the professors actually were interested in teaching and not research, as with many universities. As I look at my life choices, being too specific in choosing a life goal too early can be disastrous if things don’t work out in that chosen field. You have much more to “fall back on” if you have had a well-rounded college education and can take a different path should the need arise.

I owe so much to Loras for giving me the opportunity and challenging me to choose the direction of my life.

Kendall Griffin (*'94)
Assistant Principal, Schaumburg High School

I can simply say my time at Loras College was truly one of the most beneficial experiences of my life. It has remained one of the most influential times educationally, personally and athletically. The education I received at Loras College was tremendous and the individual attention and help I received absolutely prepared me for the profession I chose to pursue in education. The liberal arts curriculum provided me with a well-rounded education and exposed me to several different opportunities professionally.

Students at Loras College are exposed to a very diverse liberal arts curriculum and are blessed to have a very dedicated and talented faculty. I enjoyed my classes and the academic rigor of the curriculum and I never once felt I was ill-prepared as a student. The faculty was extremely helpful and the workload was always manageable, even as a student-athlete.
Today as a high school assistant principal, I credit my Loras College education as a major factor for my success and I owe the faculty, staff and fellow classmates a huge debt of thanks for my personal and professional development. My Loras College experience has been the foundation of my educational and professional success and I wouldn’t change a thing about my time there.

GO DUHAWKS!!!

Kathy (Stuermer) Jirak ('81)

When I entered Loras College in 1977, I was relatively certain I would graduate with a degree in English and go on to write children’s books. I recall entertaining football players in Beckman Hall on Friday nights with my readings of Dr. Seuss classics, as the players stayed in before the big games on Saturdays. On a whim, I took a marketing class with Barry Rudin and I was hooked. I was fascinated by management and human resources, not so thrilled with finance and stats, but ended up a business administration major.

Upon graduation, I worked for 20 years in sales and management for Banner Personnel in Chicago. In 2001, I retired to raise our two children and relocated to Maryland, then North Carolina. Yesterday, I pulled out my Loras College Student Record of classes. Little did I know 30-some years ago, the creative drawing, painting and calligraphy classes I took would help me to convert our new houses into homes. And the bible classes at Loras whetted my appetite for more in-depth and deeply satisfying studies in the last eight years.

As my youngest ventures off to college this fall and I return to the workforce, I am confident the well-rounded education Loras provided will serve me well. The liberal arts curriculum at Loras taught me to explore all of my talents and interests and prepared me for a full life. For that I am exceedingly grateful.

Wendy Schrunk ('07)
Associate, Goldman Sachs Asset Management

A liberal arts education requires students to actively engage in multiple disciplines and draw connections from the course work for their major to the coursework in other disciplines. Time spent in the liberal arts environment allows students to focus on developing their current strengths while exploring other interests and discovering skills they didn’t know they had.

While at Loras I studied economics and finance, which provided a solid foundation and the targeted skill set I would need in order to enter the workforce in my chosen field. In addition to the more analytical and mathematical thought processes my finance and economics courses required, the English, psychology and history classes I took allowed me to adopt a multi-dimensional approach to my coursework and helped sharpen my critical thinking and writing skills.

These important aspects of a liberal arts education have undoubtedly translated into my current profession. One of the things I enjoy most about my role is every day is different. This type of environment requires me to think on my feet and be able to assess a situation from all possible viewpoints. I often have to bounce from one subject to another and correlate things happening in the marketplace to the changing needs of my clients. One minute I may be responding to an inquiry about an account; the next providing recommendations on policy changes and the next analyzing performance data. I thrive in this type of work environment because of my liberal arts education and the Loras experience that prepared me to succeed.

Sanjit Pradhananga, ('09) (Kathmandu, Nepal) an English literature major at Loras College, earned a second place finish in the essay/non-fiction division and a $250 prize in the Delta Epsilon Sigma (DES) 2010-2011 National Writing Competition. Pradhananga won for his prose piece “Birth of a Naturalist.” Bridget Yanes ('11) (Dubuque, Iowa) earned honorable mention status in the poetry category for her poem “Shards.”
Inaugural Business Week a Success, Plans Underway for 2011

By John Upstrom, Professor of Finance

Last May, the Division of Business Administration inaugurated a new tradition at Loras—Business Week. The week-long celebration was designed to recognize the accomplishments of business students and programs, as well as to offer learning opportunities for the Loras and greater communities.

The theme “Business Serves” was chosen for the inaugural event. Several local business executives presented a mini-conference on a variety of topics: Chip Murray (’74) from First Community Trust spoke on “Leadership and Ethics;” Cindy Steinhauser from the City of Dubuque spoke on “Leading Communities through Partnerships;” and the Smart City project and Greg Gorton, Loras College head men’s basketball coach, spoke on “Leadership and Coaching.” Loras business students also hosted a showcase, highlighting some of the work done within their major. The showcase included work from the LIFE (Loras Investment Fund for the Endowment) portfolio, in which students manage part of the Loras College endowment; the Catholic Social Teaching Case Competition, a new event where students prepare and present a case where they consider both the business and Catholic social teaching elements of a controversial event and compete with other groups on thoroughness and methodology of recommendations; VITA (Voluntary Income Tax Assistance) where Loras students learn and serve by preparing income taxes for low income individuals; and other entries including displays from the new business capstone simulation and stock market game.

A major highlight of the event was a keynote address delivered by Thomas J. Tauke (’72), executive vice president - public affairs, policy and communications at Verizon Communications and chair of the Loras College Board of Regents. Students, faculty, staff, regents and other community leaders gathered to hear Tauke speak on “Principled Leadership in a Global World.”

The service theme continued with students and faculty helping with cleaning and maintenance projects at Teresa Shelter. Business Week 2010 culminated with a student and faculty social at the Hotel Julien, where various student awards were presented.

Plans are currently underway for Business Week 2011, scheduled to take place May 9-13. The keynote address for this year’s event will be presented by Jeff Gardner (alumnus), president and CEO of Windstream Corp., an S&P 500 company with communications operations in 21 states, and about $3.7 billion in annual revenues. Business Week 2011 will build on the momentum and successes of the inaugural event. Watch www.loras.edu for announcements and a full schedule of events.
Two National Wins in One Year for Sport Management

Loras College’s 2008 *Purgold* yearbook, “Leaving a Legacy,” was chosen as one of the select few to be included in the 2010 edition of Walsworth Publishing Company’s prestigious *Possibilities* publication.

*Possibilities* is an annual idea book produced by Walsworth that is designed to showcase some of the best work done by the company’s yearbooks over the previous year. The book serves as an idea generator for students across the nation, showing examples of outstanding theme development, design, writing and photography.

The 2010 volume of *Possibilities* features 623 examples from 187 yearbooks. Only 16 college and university yearbooks are represented in this volume. Work appearing in the book is displayed at regional, state and national conventions and workshops throughout the year. Countless yearbook staffs across the country refer to *Possibilities* as a premier source for inspiration.

“I watched the hard work and dedication these students and their adviser put into creating this yearbook,” said Jim Straub, Walsworth yearbook sales representative for the school. “Not many people produce a book in less than a year, never mind that these were students who had classes and other obligations during that time.”

The Loras College yearbook was produced under the direction of Mike Gibson (MA ’91), college archivist and director of the Center for Dubuque History. For the past three consecutive years the *Purgold* has won the prestigious “Gallery of Excellence Award” which only the top 25 or 30 colleges and universities in the nation routinely receive.

Loras College’s 2008 *Purgold* yearbook, “Leaving a Legacy,” was chosen as one of the select few to be included in the 2010 edition of Walsworth Publishing Company’s prestigious *Possibilities* publication.

Each year the Loras College sport management program sends teams to two national competitions: the College Sport Research Institute (CSRI) case study competition in the spring and the Sport Marketing Association (SMA) case study competition in the fall. In 2010, the teams competed in North Carolina and New Orleans, taking the national championship title at both competitions.

“Sport management is a huge industry encompassing many different areas,” explained senior Scott Johann (Des Plaines, III.). “The coursework offered at Loras prepares us well and gives us a background in all areas of sport including marketing, facilities, finance and fundraising, legal aspects and many more.”

Andrew McGinnis (’10) (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), Dolly Duffy (’10) (Bartlett, Ill.), Tim Kelly (’12) (Cedar Falls, Iowa) and Jacob Hanselman (’11) (Solon, Iowa) brought home the CSRI title with their presentation on the University of New Orleans’ pending decision to remain NCAA Division I or move to Division III.

Hanselman, McGinnis, Johann and Chad Monahan (’11) (Rockwell City, Iowa), won over the judges at the SMA competition with their strategies for creating a new brand message for the New Orleans Hornets basketball team.

“Our team worked together for about a month,” explained Johann. “We spent many long hours together in the library, working to perfect our marketing plan. It is becoming an expectation that we not just attend these conferences, but that we will perform well at them.”

“The teams’ successes continue to demonstrate that our sport management students are on par with any program in the country,” said Matthew Garrett, Ph.D., chair of the Division of Physical Education and Sport Studies and coordinator of the sport management program at Loras.
Mediation Team’s Success Earns Spot in International Competition

BY CLARE HORST (’11)

They may be small, but they are mighty. The Loras College mediation team is celebrating its most successful season to date after a second-place finish at the National Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament. The placement also earned Loras an invitation to compete at the International Dispute Resolution Competition in London, England, which took place in late March.

Mediation is a process where a neutral third party facilitates negotiation and voluntary decision making by parties in a dispute. Intercollegiate mediation consists of three to five students who are given a two-page case. One student becomes the mediator who helps the parties try to reach a settlement, while the other two students have the role of advocate and client. They compete against another university team of advocate-client, also working to solve the problem. Critic judges evaluate the students and award points for professionalism, oral advocacy, teamwork, creativity, listening and critical thinking skills.

Members of the Loras team were consistently ranked at the top of all performers in each round of the national tournament. “Going into the final round, Loras was ranked as the top mediation team by two points, but the championship final round starts fresh,” explained Coach Mary Lynn Neuhaus, J.D. (’76), professor of communication arts. “Boston University, five-time national champion, edged Loras out of the number one spot by less than one-fifth of a point.”

“I am extremely proud of my team,” said Heather Jackson (’12) (Dubuque, Iowa), team captain. “We have been placing in the top 10 for the past four years, so finally breaking into the top five and making it to the final round was excellent.”

Loras is one of only a handful of undergraduate schools, and the only college (the others are major state universities), to be invited to the international tournament. Jackson, Keith Flinn (’12) (Westport, Conn.), Eleisha Reeg (’12) (Bellevue, Iowa) and Kevin Sheahan (’11) (DeKalb, Ill.) were chosen to represent Loras in London, as each had achieved All-American Mediator status. In addition, both Sheahan and Jackson received All-American Advocate and Client awards.

While in London team members attended lectures on mediation and international relations as well as competed against international law schools in mediation.

The 2010 second-place National Intercollegiate Mediation Team consisted of (clockwise from top-left) Jared Levy (’12) (Dubuque, Iowa); Mary Lynn Neuhaus, professor of communication arts; Keith Flinn (’12) (Westport, Conn.); Ron Collins, associate professor of business administration; Kevin Sheahan (’11) (DeKalb, Ill.); Eleisha Reeg (’12) (Bellevue, Iowa); Heather Jackson (’12) (Dubuque, Iowa) and Tessa Otero (’14) (Phoenix, Ariz.).
Despite the saying, sometimes the uncontrollable weather conditions mean the show cannot go on.

That’s what happened to the annual “Sounds of the Season” choir and wind ensemble concert on Dec. 11, 2010, as dangerous driving conditions made it necessary to cancel the concert.

However, some families had already made the trip to see the performance. Choir member Hannah Kauffold’s (‘13) (Wahoo, Neb.) parents and grandparents drove more than six hours to get to Loras. “We knew a storm was forecast, so we arrived Friday night to make sure we were there,” explained Ken Kauffold, Hannah’s grandfather. “By 11 a.m. [Saturday morning], the rain started, getting heavier by the minute. By noon, it had turned to snow—big flakes that stuck to everything!”

The family was out for lunch when they received notice that the concert was cancelled. “I felt awful because my family drove all that way, despite the storm,” explained Hannah. She immediately contacted choir director Bruce Kotowich, D.M.A., associate professor of music, to see if there was a way to get the members of the Chamber Choir together to sing some of their songs for her family. “Dr. Kotowich was up for it, so I gave a few people in the Chamber Choir a call and they spread the word to each other. Before we knew it, everyone was at the Visitation building ready for an impromptu concert.”

“Fifteen out of the 18 choir members were present in Gallagher Hall and gave the four of us a private concert,” said Andy Kauffold, Hannah’s father. “We didn’t care that they didn’t have on their performance attire. We didn’t care that the room wasn’t decked out in holiday splendor. It was a very special and touching experience for us, and based upon what we have heard from Hannah, it was special for the students as well.”

The weekend was special for Hannah’s family for another important reason—they were celebrating Ken’s 80th birthday. Hannah would not have made it home for her grandfather’s birthday, but she said the concert was the best gift they could have given him. “It was most extraordinary!” exclaimed Ken. “The Chamber Choir sang six selections for the four of us, and they sang a great rendition of ‘Happy Birthday’ for me. We gave them a standing ovation after each song; it was truly a ‘once in a lifetime’ event.”

The performance was an impactful experience for the Kauffolds and one they will not soon forget. “I don’t know if my grandpa will get another chance to see me perform. It truly showed us how much people care at Loras,” said Hannah.

“The title of the concert was ‘Sounds of the Season,’” said Vickie Kauffold, Hannah’s mother. “What we witnessed was not just the ‘sounds’ of the musical selections, but the ‘actions’ of these Loras students and Dr. Kotowich as they selflessly came to perform for us.”

Drew Chapman (‘11) (Dyersville, Iowa) advanced to the final round of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) competition held Nov. 5-6, 2010, in Milwaukee, Wis. He was one of only three in his category of Upper College Men’s Musical Theatre to make it to the final round of competition. Chapman is a senior at Loras double majoring in economics and international studies.
For most young people, summertime means sunshine, lemonade, swimming and baseball. Now, with the sunshine also comes Loras College Summer Academy!

Last summer, Loras College began a summer camp for adolescents unlike anything else. This exciting new opportunity was created for students entering eighth, ninth and 10th grades, and offers a prestigious “pre-college” experience combining experiential, hands-on courses with educational social activities. The first annual Loras College Summer Academy was held July 25-30, 2010. The program is designed to create an academic and faith-based environment for students with classes that provide hands-on, interactive learning. “The idea is to introduce students to dynamic faculty teaching interesting subjects, to show them that learning can be fun,” explained Michael Budde (’70), executive director for business development and strategic initiatives. “We want to get students energized about learning and excited about college.”

Summer Academy got off to a great start last summer with 43 participants who signed up for one of six different classes. Some classes included, “Let’s Get Cooking: Culinary Arts for Young Chefs” and “Real World CSI;” two classes which will be offered again this coming summer.

Two different sessions will be taught back-to-back this summer, during the last two weeks in July. “This year, we are offering both major and minor areas of study, so students won’t be working on the same thing all day,” explained Budde. “Students of this age can only focus for so long, and studying only one subject all week makes for long class periods.” To remedy this, major classes will be taught from 9 a.m. until 2:45 p.m. and minor classes will run from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m.

The program is also planning to partner with local businesses for some of the classes. Jordan Degree, executive director of the Dubuque Art Center, will be teaching a course entitled, “ART: Make it BIG, Make it PUBLIC!”

Students participating in this class will work with professional artists to plan and create a large-scale, mosaic mural which will be on display for the entire Dubuque community.

A second course will bring students to the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium for the class, “Become the Next River Rat: Mississippi River Exploration,” taught by museum educators Mark Wagner and Jared McGovern. The class will have the chance to explore the Mississippi and the plants and animals that call the river home.

Senior Ray Werner (Dysart, Iowa) worked as a teaching assistant (TA) last summer with Cindy Smith, Ph.D., associate professor of Greek and Roman studies, who taught an archaeology class called, “Can You Dig It?” He also served as a resident assistant, guiding the campers to and from their classes and supervising them in the residence halls. “I think I can speak on behalf all of the TAs when saying that this was a very rewarding experience,” said Werner.
With the experience of one Summer Academy under his belt, Werner will now be teaching a class of his own. “I will be teaching a class similar to the one I was a TA for last summer,” explained Werner. The class is called, “Go with the Flow.” It will examine both prehistoric, Native American lifestyles and modern Euro-American lifestyles along the Mississippi River. “We will be exploring how the two cultures have influenced each other, and ultimately shaped our lives today.”

In addition to providing stimulating and exciting classes, Summer Academy aims to give students a taste of the social aspect of living on a college campus. To give students the full college experience, most stayed in the residence halls on campus for the week. “The more they are immersed in the residential experience, the more fun they end up having,” explained Budde. Students had the chance to participate in a variety of evening excursions and activities to places in Dubuque such as the National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium and Eagle Point Park.

“I think the most excitement was had at the evening activities when the students and TAs got to compete in games, watch movies or just relax,” noted Werner.

One of the best parts of Summer Academy is the friendships that are formed, both between the students and the faculty. The small class sizes and experiential style of learning allows the participants to really get to know their peers and professor. “Students form a relationship with a college professor, and they also have the support of a college-aged teaching assistant,” said Budde. “We have excellent TAs on staff, and the students really seemed to look up to them.”

“These students got to see that there were kids just like them—excited to learn and explore their academic interests,” explained Werner. “They appreciated this and were excited to inform us, as these behaviors may be against the ‘popular’ or ‘cool’ ideas among their peers.” Summer Academy was most certainly a beneficial experience for all.

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World Food Prize Expert Inspires Students  

By Clare Horst (’11)

From growing up in a mud-floor, thatched hut in rural Ethiopia to being named winner of the 2009 World Food Prize, Gebisa Ejeta’s, Ph.D., story is inspiring. A distinguished professor, plant breeder and geneticist at Purdue University, Ejeta received the World Food Prize honor for his monumental contributions in the production of sorghum, one of the world’s five principal cereal grains. This grain has dramatically enhanced the food supply of hundreds of millions of people in sub-Saharan Africa.

Ejeta attended Jimma Agricultural and Technical School, which had been established by Oklahoma State University under the U.S. Government’s Point Four Program. After graduating with distinction, he entered Alemaya College in eastern Ethiopia. He received his bachelor’s degree in plant science in 1973 and later become a graduate student at Purdue University, where he earned his doctorate.

On Oct. 12, 2010, Ejeta presented a lecture at Loras College as part of the World Food Prize Laureate Lecture Series. His visit was inspired by a global issues course taught in the 2010 spring semester by Jenna Lea, instructor of political science. “I challenged the class to break into groups and plan a project on campus to bring awareness to a global issue and explore how these issues have local relevance,” explained Lea. “One of the groups was interested in food and sustainability issues.” Lea and her students discovered the World Food Prize Foundation and began work to bring a speaker to the college.

Ejeta’s visit was made possible with the help of Loras College alumnus, Former Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn (‘64), who is now president of The World Food Prize Foundation. After graduating from Loras College with a degree in political science, Quinn began a distinguished career working first as a rural development officer for the Foreign Service and later as the U.S. Government’s senior district advisor in Vietnam. In addition to working around the world with the Foreign Service, Quinn was on the National Security Council staff at the White House and served as ambassador to Cambodia. He retired from the state department in 1999. Quinn began his career as president of the World Food Prize in 2000, working alongside Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Norman Borlaug, Ph.D.

 “[Quinn] actually approached Ejeta personally to see if he would be interested in coming to speak at Loras,” explained Lea. “The annual WFP laureate week in Des Moines is a very tightly scheduled week for the former laureates and we were initially concerned there would be timing difficulties. We were quite fortunate to have Dr. Ejeta on campus.”

In his address to the campus community, Ejeta brought to light larger social issues concerning poverty, development and sustainability as well. “Ejeta did a great job showing how the trends in both population growth and food production could lead to a worsening global food crisis in the decades ahead unless we find ways to dramatically boost the world’s food supply,” said David Cochran, Ph.D., professor of political science. “His was an inspiring story about how a vocation in scientific research can do a great deal of humanitarian good. Ejeta both raised awareness of a critical global issue while also inspiring students with his compelling personal story.”

The World Food Prize was conceived by Norman E. Borlaug, Ph.D., recipient of the 1970 Nobel Peace Prize. Since 1986, The World Food Prize has honored outstanding individuals who have made vital contributions to improving the quality, quantity or availability of food throughout the world. In 1990, Des Moines businessman and philanthropist John Ruan assumed sponsorship of The Prize and established The World Food Prize Foundation, located in Des Moines, Iowa. Since its inception The World Food Prize has been awarded to individuals from Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Cuba, Denmark, Ethiopia, India, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and the United Nations. Learn more at www.worldfoodprize.org.
Hindsight

Learning outside of the classroom has always been a hallmark of the liberal arts education at Loras. For many years students at Loras College have participated in mock political conventions as a way to actively participate in real life experiences. This photo shows one of the mock conventions in the late 1960s held in the Fieldhouse. Tom Auge, Ph.D., professor of history, is shown in the center just to the left of the New Jersey delegation pole sign.

Photo contributed by the Loras College Archives. The archives, as well as the Loras College Center for Dubuque History, are interested in collecting Loras College and Dubuque memorabilia including photographs, postcards, letters, diaries, etc. Contact Mike Gibson, archivist, at Loras College, 1450 Alta Vista St., Dubuque, Iowa, 52001, or call (563) 588-7163, or e-mail michael.gibson@loras.edu.

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Please give generously.
Hall of Fame

The following people were inducted into the Loras College Varsity Athletics Hall of Fame on Sept. 4, 2010:

**Tim Keane** ('92), as a defensive back and return man, was a first team All-Iowa Conference selection and an Honorable Mention All-American selection by Champion. Keane set seven return records in football and 12 school records in track. His record remains in hurdles at 55 and 200 meters, 110 meter hurdles record (outdoor), a member of the best 4x200 meter relay and sprint medley relay teams in program history. Football records are: yards in a season (270 in 1990), career average (9.2 yards), career kick return average (22.4 yards) and total kick return yardage in a single season in 1989 (388 yards). Keane spent 18 years serving wards of the State of Illinois and other at-risk young people. He currently is the director of behavioral services for an Illinois Safe School program. Keane also earned degrees from National-Louis University and resides in Chicago, Ill.

**Ann Cunningham** ('87) and her teammates enjoyed the most successful era in Loras College women's golf history. Cunningham helped put the Duhawks on the map immediately upon joining the roster and headlined the Loras portion of the leader board for much of her career. Awards and honors include: All-District honors, All-Tournament Team at both the Iowa Small College and National Small College tournaments, individual medalist at both the William Penn and St. Ambrose Invitational, runner-up at Luther College, Iowa Conference All-Conference team, second straight Iowa Small College All-Tournament Team and named an All-American at the NCGA Tournament. Cunningham continues to reside in Dubuque, has worked as the general manager at Lacoma Golf Club where she remains part-time, but now spends the majority of her time running a local night club and contributing to the business operations of another.

**Chris Jans** ('91) was attacking it for a school record 214 three-pointers. He holds Loras’ all-time scoring record with 707 points in 25 games, and 28.3 per game average record; 399 of those points came from a record 133 baskets from behind the arc, a 5.3 per game average and 93 of the 133 three-pointers were during Iowa Conference games, a record that still stands today. He is a member of the 1,000 Points Club, finishing with 1,206 points. Jans was named first team All-Iowa Conference and NABC All-West Region. Today, Jans is an assistant coach at Wichita State University in Wichita, Kan., a NCAA Division I and Missouri Valley Conference member, after previously coaching at several colleges or universities as head or assistant coach. Jans lives in Andover, Kan., with his wife Sheri and his stepchildren, Nick and Maddie.

**Shane Davis** ('98) received the ball 694 times during his career, nearly seven yards per carry. Awards and records include: 1st Team All-American, 1997; nearly every rushing record in the program’s history; produced what remains one of the greatest single games on the ground of any NCAA Division III player; holds the records for rushing yards in a game (382), season (1,774) and career (4,734); averaged 8.43 yards per carry in 1996; in his final game he provided 382 yards on the ground, including over 150 on his first three carries which propelled Davis to the top of the Loras career rushing list, where he remains today. Davis played in the Aztec Bowl, NCAA Division III All-Star Game and was a two-time All-Iowa Conference selection. Davis currently is the pastor at Chandler Seventh-Day Adventist Church and Phoenix South Mountain Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He and his wife Hayli live in Gilbert, Ariz., with their daughter Hope and son Noble.
In December Loras College tabbed Paul Mierkiewicz ('89) as the 25th head football coach for the Duhawks.

Mierkiewicz had been the head coach at Hastings College (Hastings, Neb.) since 2001 and a member of the Broncos’ staff since 1998. At Hastings he served as the offensive coordinator and assistant to the athletic director (1998-2001), prior to his 10-year run as head coach. Under Mierkiewicz’s direction as head coach, the Broncos went 65-41.

Mierkiewicz, an alumnus of Loras College, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in physical education in 1989 and a master’s in athletic administration (physical education) in 1995. He served on Loras’ coaching staff from 1992-1998 and was the offensive coordinator for the final five seasons of that stretch.

“This is such a great opportunity for my family and me,” Mierkiewicz said upon his appointment. “Loras College is a wonderful place with tremendous people and tremendous student-athletes, and I’d be lying if I said it didn’t feel like a bit of a homecoming for me.”

Director of Athletics Bob Quinn ('86) and Mierkiewicz finalized the full-time football coaching staff positions in early February. The new additions include assistant coaches Steve Helminiak ('91), Tom Kropf ('04) and Brent O’Brien. Gavin McMacken (MA ’06) will continue his role as defensive coordinator for Loras and Josh Edwards will continue his role as the head strength and conditioning coach and linebackers coach.

“It was really important to get a staff with excellent coaches and recruiters who understand the vision of Loras College and the direction we want this program to go,” said Mierkiewicz.

Helminiak was most recently the head coach at Southern Oregon University from 2006-2010. He had previously worked on the football staff at Rockford College and also was an assistant at Loras for 11 years. Helminiak graduated from Loras in 1991 after competing as a member of the football team for four seasons.

Kropf has had coaching stops at Culver-Stockton College, State University of New York - Maritime College and Rockford College. He graduated from Loras in 2004, was a team captain his senior year and will coach the running backs.

O’Brien previously coached at Fort Hays State University, Earlham College and Hastings College. He graduated from Hastings College in 2005 and played for Mierkiewicz for four years. He will coach the defensive backs.

“I’m excited as we move forward with this talented staff in place as we prepare for spring workouts,” added Mierkiewicz. “The work starts this spring semester and while there’s plenty to learn, our young men have already shown great enthusiasm in getting ready for September 3rd against Elmhurst.”
When he was three years old, Tyler Steinke had not yet started walking or talking. His parents took him to neurologists all over the country and eventually he was diagnosed with a form of autism. Sadly, his parents were told Tyler might never learn to walk or talk.

“My wife and I wouldn’t let that happen,” explained Tyler’s father Gary Steinke (’80), president of the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU). “My wife quit her job and we spent all of our time working with Tyler one-on-one.” Tyler beat the odds and despite his autism, he is a happy, healthy 13-year-old.

Last winter, Tyler was in Dubuque with his father for the 2010 Special Olympics Winter Games, where he competed in snowshoeing. “Tyler has always been a huge basketball fan and he asked if we could go to see the Loras gym,” explained Gary. “When we walked in, the women’s basketball team was practicing. We introduced ourselves to Coach Justin Heinzen and he asked Tyler to practice with them. They treated him just like a teammate.”

Since then the team has continued an ongoing relationship with Tyler. Despite the long drive to Dubuque from their home in Urbandale, Iowa, Tyler is at every Loras game he can make—home or away. He sits on the bench with the team and wears a shirt and tie, just like Coach Heinzen. “He’s been part of our starting lineups, has run a time-out for us in a game and has talked during the pre-game,” explained Heinzen. “Tyler will travel four hours to see a game—he’s a trooper.”

“It’s been an amazing year,” said Gary. “The team has done more for Tyler’s social well-being and for his confidence than anybody could ever imagine. They don’t treat Tyler any other way than they would treat anybody else; they don’t act like he’s fragile. You can’t imagine what that does for a kid like Tyler.”

“I could never be on a team at my school because I am not good enough, but I can tell my friends at school that I am good enough to help coach the Loras College women’s basketball team,” said Tyler. “Coach Justin, the assistant coaches and all the players like me...they are like my family.” Tyler has learned to play basketball simply by watching. His dad explained, “He watches games, memorizes the way things work and comes back and does it and it’s perfect. He has the greatest form, but he has never been coached.”

Junior Katie Sharp (’12) (McHenry, Ill.) added, “Every time he is sitting on that bench or watching a game, his eyes are glued on the players and he is learning a great deal by observing how we act on and off the court.”

“One of his most fervent desires is to be on a team, but he knows that’s not a possibility,” said Gary. “But they make him a part of their team—he is a part of their team.” While being a part of the Loras team is very beneficial to Tyler, the relationship is reciprocal. “He gives us a reason to play,” said Niki Rivera (’13) (Sterling, Ill.). “Knowing there are people out there who look up to the players on our team is a great feeling.”

Sophomore Kelly Rogowski (’13) (Prospect Heights, Ill.) echoes those sentiments. “Tyler has had an extremely positive impact on our team. His positive attitude reminds everyone how blessed we are to be playing college basketball. Once Coach Heinzen allowed Tyler to run a timeout and he was so overwhelmed with excitement he couldn’t even say what he planned on saying. That makes us excited to get a win for him.”

Tyler Steinke sits on the bench intensely watching the Loras women’s basketball game.

Tyler competed again this year in the Special Olympics Winter Games held at Albrecht Acres in Sherrill, Iowa. Five of the Loras basketball players went to cheer him on in his race. “With all the support Tyler gives us, it was only right to repay him with the same respect and show him how much we appreciate having him around,” said Sharp. “Having us there, I know, meant a great deal to Tyler and his family.” Tyler competed in the 100-meter snowshoe competition and won fifth place in his race.
Gary emphasized how grateful he is to the Loras team. “We go to lots of private college games all over the state—usually four or five a week; sometimes two a day—but he doesn’t have this relationship with anybody else.”

As president of IAICU, Gary spends a lot of time at different colleges across the state. “I often talk about how students at the private colleges are different—this example emulates that,” said Gary. “What the team has done is the embodiment of Catholic doctrine—of what the Catholic Church represents—and it’s just being decent and kind human beings. Nobody asked them to do this.”

“Having Tyler on our team keeps things in perspective,” said Heinzen. “It certainly creates a bigger picture. If there are life lessons to take away, this is certainly an easy one to point to.”

Loras College hosted its annual faculty and staff recognition ceremony on March 16, 2011, to recognize employees for their years of service. The following awards were also presented at the ceremony:

The John Cardinal O’Connor Chair for Catholic Thought was awarded to Susan M. Stone, Ph.D., associate professor of English. The Chair for Catholic Thought is awarded for projects in which the faculty member reflects creatively upon one or more of the following in light of Catholic Thought: their disciplines, service, teaching, scholarship, significant contemporary issues, interdisciplinary perspectives and diversity.

The John Henry Cardinal Newman Teaching Excellence and Campus Leadership Award was presented to Kenneth W. McLaughlin, Ph.D., professor of physics and engineering. This award recognizes a faculty member who has a continued and well-rounded record of excellence for more than 12 years in the areas of: campus involvement/leadership, creative course development, pioneering teaching methodology, counseling effectiveness, positive role model and model classroom teaching.

Mark E. Kehren, Ph.D., assistant professor of history, was chosen to receive the Mike and Linda Budde Teaching Excellence Award. This award is presented annually to the top professor who has taught at Loras College fewer than 11 years. The award recognizes effectiveness in classroom teaching; concern for the role of one’s discipline within a Catholic liberal arts institution, the relationship of one’s discipline to other intellectual perspectives and, where appropriate, its bearing on moral, social and religious questions; and effectiveness in providing accurate academic advisement to students, in the supervision of independent study and informal contact with students in order to create an environment conducive to student learning.

Mary (Sue) Ross, RN, health center nurse, was the first to receive the Loras College Staff Recognition Award. Inaugurated this year the award will be presented annually to a full-time staff member, salaried or hourly, for outstanding accomplishments and contributions that significantly benefited, brought honor or recognition to the College. The award recognizes a staff member who has demonstrated a high degree of excellence, professionalism and integrity in the performance of their duties for the College. Additionally, they will have proven their willingness to assist other members of the Loras community and work for the general wellbeing of the College, consistently demonstrating a strong commitment to student success, directly or indirectly.
The Loras College Department of Athletics once again achieved significant success during the fall sports season in 2010. Loras added a total of three All-Americans, 11 All-Region athletes, 26 All-Iowa Conference team members, 19 IIAC All-Academic team members with two IIAC Most Valuable Players, and three Iowa Conference championships to their list of accomplishments.

**Soccer**
The soccer field provided more success at both the Iowa Conference and NCAA levels. Both the men's and women's teams qualified for the NCAA Division III championships by winning the Iowa Conference tournament, which took place at the Rock Bowl. Also, they each finished atop the Iowa Conference during the regular season. Loras advanced to the Sweet 16 of the NCAA championships in both brackets. The lady Duhawks finished ranked #8 in the country and the men's team finished at #15.

Each team put a player on the All-American list – Miguel Bonilla ('11) (Cali, Colombia) on the men's side and Kate Young ('12) (Roscoe, Ill.) on the women's. The men's team (16-7-1) graduated the winningest senior class in the program's history and the women's team won a program-best 22 games in 2010 (22-1-1). All told, the teams combined for 13 All-Iowa Conference selections, six All-Region performers, and the aforementioned two All-Americans. Head coach Dan Rothert ('96) was named the NSCAA/Mondo NCAA Division III North Region Coach of the Year for the women's team and the Iowa Conference Coach of the Year for both the men's and women's teams.

**Cross Country**
The cross country teams each provided successful seasons in 2010. The women's team finished fourth at the IIAC championships (just a few spots out of third) and 10th at the NCAA Regional meet (two spots from ninth). Katie Hemesath ('12) (Dubuque, Iowa) paced the Duhawks most of the year, earning All-Conference and All-Region recognition by leading the Duhawks to the finish line in the IIAC and NCAA meets, as well as being Loras' topfinisher in the annual Dr. Robert Tucker Invitational in Dubuque.

The men's team hustled to second place at the Iowa Conference championships and seventh at the NCAA Regional event. Jerry Olp ('14) (Wheaton, Ill.) and Dan McDermott ('12) (Cedar Rapids, Iowa) traded top-slot honors during the season. They finished 1-2 at the Dr. Robert Tucker Invitational to help Loras to a perfect team score of 15 to win the meet. Olp finished fourth at the IIAC meet and was one of four All-IIAC performers. Three Duhawks, including McDermott, Austin Steil ('13) (Cedar Rapids, Iowa), and Chris Higgins ('14) (Geneva, Ill.) were named to the All-Region team. McDermott advanced to the national meet with his ninth place individual effort at Regionals and ran a P.R. 25:44 at the NCAA Division III championships.

**Football**
The football team worked their way to a 5-5 overall record in 2010—a three game improvement from their previous season. By going 4-4 in IIAC play, they tied for fourth place in the standings. They closed the season by winning four of their final six games. The defense allowed less than 20 points per game and was the third best in the league.

Matt Hillard ('14) (Galena, Ill.) and...
Loras College Student Union presented two awards at the Family Weekend brunch on Nov. 7, 2010:

**The Rev. William M. Joensen, Ph.D.**, dean of campus spiritual life, was presented with the Father John Naumann Award. The prestigious award is given annually to a Loras College employee who, through their work with students shows effort above and beyond the call of duty and emulates the ideals and values of Father Naumann. Joensen, nominated by Cara Voelliger (‘11) (Bettendorf, Iowa), was recognized for his service to the Loras and Dubuque communities as well as his compassionate, charismatic way of helping others.

The Parent of the Year Award was given to Mary Ellen Guest of Chicago, Ill. She was nominated by her son, Jon Schulte (‘12), who wrote a moving essay explaining his incredible gratefulness for her sacrifices and the impact she has had on his life.
2010 Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Loras College and the National Alumni Board recognized five individuals with distinguished alumni awards during the Homecoming Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010.

John “Jack” Frasco ('60), who was awarded the Professional Achievements and Contributions Made to Loras College award, is one of those people whose list of personal and professional achievements seems endless. He worked his way up to become the manager of a corporate labor relations staff at Chrysler Corporation and earned his juris doctorate in 1972. Frasco founded Frasco & Caponigro, P.C., in Michigan, which specializes in corporate labor relations and sports law. Frasco is a man who epitomizes leadership and hard work. He served as partner at a sports marketing company, co-founded Championship Auto Racing Teams (CART) and served as chairman of the board of directors from 1979-96. Frasco has also owned and operated Indy Car grand prix races. He currently divides his time between Michigan and Florida, with his wife Kathy; the couple has two daughters, a son and seven grandchildren. Frasco continues to work as a senior attorney at Frasco & Caponigro, and in his free time, he enjoys boating, golfing and being actively involved in the world of athletics.

Charles “Charley” D. McCormick ('52) was honored for his 28 years of service to Loras with the Service Provided to Loras College as a Staff, Faculty or Administrator Award. McCormick worked for 12 years in the Loras College business office, eventually becoming Loras’ first financial aid director from 1968-96. Following a major flood in the 1960s, he requested additional financial government aid for victims of the flood and helped set up enrichment scholarships. In addition, he was also instrumental in the design and implementation of the Law Enforcement Education Program (LEEP), a program for local police officers to earn a college degree from a liberal arts institution. McCormick was an active member of the Iowa Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (IASFAA), serving as a member-at-large, secretary and vice president. He is a recipient of the John Heisner Memorial Lifetime Achievement Award, the highest award that IASFAA bestows. McCormick and his wife Lela have seven children and 15 grandchildren, and currently reside in Dubuque, Iowa.

Jennifer A. (Galloway) McDevitt ('95), who was recognized for her Contributions Made in Public Service, ran marathons all over the country, even though she had a brain tumor behind her left eye since 2003. McDevitt served on the board of directors for the Tug McGraw Foundation. She created a run called “Joggin for the Noggin,” which is a 5k fun run/walk held every August to raise money for brain cancer research. In three years the race has grown from 500 to 1,000 runners and has raised more than $150,000 for brain cancer research and quality of life research. McDevitt earned several awards including: the 2006 Tim and Tom Gullikson Spirit Award; the 2006, 2007 and 2008 Saucony Women of the Year Award; the 2008 Courage Award Recipient for the Voices Against Brain Cancer Foundation in New York City; and the Civilian Award for Country United Gala. McDevitt was a spokesperson for Genentech. Sadly, in November 2010 she lost her battle with cancer, but it was her spirit, energy and optimism—not the disease—that defined this young woman and made her a very distinguished alumnae.
Elizabeth A. O’Connell (’01) was this year’s recipient of the Young Alumni Award for making a difference in the world. Since graduating, O’Connell has lived, served and taught in South Africa, Haiti and the Archdiocese of Chicago. She began a volunteer commitment in Haiti with The Haitian Project (THP), where she taught religion and English from 2002-2004 at Louverture Cleary School (LCS) and also collaborated on the “Celebrate Women” committee. As the first director of campus ministry she was instrumental in building THP/LCS’s foundation with the local Church, and with the school’s commitment to servant leadership, working to expand the school’s community service programs. In May 2005, she returned to the U.S. and continued her role as director of campus ministry until filling the role of THP’s first director of community development. O’Connell worked for the Archdiocese of Chicago at Catholic Charities as well as St. John Berchman’s Parish. She returned to THP full-time in 2009 to take up responsibilities in both Haiti and the U.S. O’Connell enjoys outdoor recreational activities, including canoeing, hiking, running and camping.

Bernard “Barney” J. Offerman (alumnus) was honored with the Christian Service and Volunteer Work award. Offerman spent three years at Loras that coincided with the largest influx of military veterans the College had ever known. After completing two years of military service and furthering his education, he went to Loyola University as a full-time lay volunteer to work in civil and labor rights. During his years at Loyola, Offerman initiated and directed the first integrated, federally-sponsored training program in the State of Louisiana. Under the Manpower Development and Training Act of 1964, he trained sugar cane workers to learn tractor mechanics. Later, when working in the Anti-Poverty program in Mississippi, he initiated and served as director of operations for the first integrated literacy program in the state. Offerman dedicated his life to community work and social justice. In the 80s and 90s, he was the James B. Duke Distinguished Professor of Business and Economics at Johnson C. Smith University. Offerman and his wife Jan have three stepchildren and eight grandchildren.

What Are “Loras Networks”?

BY LIZ ELSBERND (’08), ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

The 2010-11 academic year has brought exciting new changes to the Office of Alumni Relations at Loras College, including the transition from Loras “Clubs” to Loras “Networks.” As Loras looks to reach out to and engage more alumni, changing the name of the Loras Club of Dubuque, for example, to the Loras Network of Dubuque, is symbolic of the more inclusive and dynamic nature we would like to build upon in cities and regions throughout the country. Since our mission is to connect alumni with leadership opportunities, with the Loras campus community and with each other, the term “network” seems to better fit the purpose and goals of our alumni groups than the term “club.”

When you see events hosted by the “Loras Network of [City],” please know this was the former “Loras Club of [City].” The only difference—we are expanding our outreach to alumni and getting more people involved than ever before.

Thanks to all those who are currently serving as Network board members and alumni volunteers across the country, and to those who have served in the past. If you would like to make a difference and get involved in the Loras Network in your city or region, please email alumni@loras.edu.
My name is Evayn Roper, and I am more than honored to be one of the recipients of the National Alumni Board Scholarship. I would like to take some time to say, “Thank you.” The National Alumni Board Scholarship has given me one of the greatest opportunities in my entire life. Without this scholarship I would not have been able to attend Loras College and I am very grateful to all the members of the National Alumni Board.

As a child, I was always scared to leave home to participate in things like summer camp. Going to Loras was a big risk for me, but it has proven to be very beneficial. I have made so many friends since coming to Loras. Beyond the friendships I have also become part of a team. Going to Loras allowed me to continue swimming, which is something I have been passionate about since I was 9 years old. I grew up in Orland Park, Ill., a suburb of Chicago; more than 4,000 students attended my high school. I really liked the idea of going to a smaller school, like Loras. I like the attention I get from the professors and even my coaches. I love being able to walk around campus and know many of the people I pass by.

I would again like to thank the National Alumni Board for giving me this amazing opportunity. I could not imagine being anywhere besides Loras College.

Evayn Roper ('14)
(Orland Park, Ill.) is the recipient of the 2010 National Alumni Board Scholarship.

Loras asked alumni and friends in December to submit their ideas for the “Renaming NewsBytes” contest. More than 50 people submitted ideas and, after much deliberation, members of the Loras College staff narrowed down the list to the top three choices. Then, as part of the January NewsBytes, alumni and friends were asked to vote on their favorite. Congratulations go out to these contest winners:

1st Place: Loras Link, submitted by Lisa Dreznes ('07)
2nd Place: Dew-E News, submitted by Ronda Gerlach Jasper ('05) and Katie Thilges ('95)
3rd Place: Duhawk Digital Digest, submitted by Paul Vasiliauskas (parent)

Thanks to all who submitted their ideas and to those who voted on our finalists! Loras Link has been voted the new name of our e-newsletter. Watch your inboxes for it and congratulations, Lisa!
Ireland is a great place to visit, especially when you are traveling with Loras alumni and friends. This past November, Loras offered a Shades of Ireland trip and nearly a dozen Duhawks signed up for this amazing experience. Scott ('91) and Patti (Wright) ('91) Tarchinski were among them and share their highlights of this journey.

What prompted you to go on a Loras trip? I saw an announcement in the Loras newsletter and it intrigued me. Patty and I had previously been to Dublin and enjoyed the city and were interested in seeing more of the countryside. This trip seemed to offer what we were looking for and timed out perfectly so we could celebrate our 19th anniversary...we are so glad we signed up!

What impressed you the most? The Cliffs of Moher on the west coast of Ireland were breathtakingly beautiful. It was an amazing sight to see the ocean crash upon the cliffs, which stand about 750 feet above the water, and as we stood there you could feel the spray from the ocean as it crashed into the cliffs.

Did you kiss the Blarney Stone? We were so excited for this part of our journey and the night before I was getting ready for bed, I stubbed my toe on my wife’s shoe and broke my toe. The only reason I mention it is because you have to walk about a half mile and then up 146 stairs through a narrow winding staircase to get to the Blarney Stone. Needless to say, I made it and have a picture to prove it!

How did you like the food? I’m a picky eater, so I was a little nervous about what I would like. The Irish stew was delicious and I noticed right away you were served potatoes with every meal; either mashed, chips (French fries) or boiled potatoes. Of course, every town had a pub and we enjoyed a pint or two.

Were you apprehensive about signing up for a tour? This was our first tour experience and we wondered if it would be too structured. We found it was a great bonding experience with fellow Duhawks, but we also had time to explore the country on our own. Best of all, everything was taken care of so we didn’t have to worry about transportation or food.

What was your greatest memory from this tour? The people on this trip left a lasting memory with me. Getting to know other alumni and friends from Loras and then meeting even more travelers in Ireland was amazing. We may have been the youngest people signed up for the trip, but there were days it was hard to keep up with those in their 80s! We’ve developed new relationships through this experience and continue to email each other today.
Satisfying beads of sweat sting my eyes as I marvel at the gorgeous Iowa landscape, gaze at the unending variety of colorful cycling shirts and pray for a tailwind. Bicycling across the state with Team Loras in the spectacular event called RAGBRAI is much more than a physical accomplishment.

Don’t get me wrong. The nearly 500-mile ride is not an every week occurrence and is certainly something that deservedly elicits a measured pride. It is fun, exciting and sometimes grueling to push the pedals thousands of times each day for a week, watching wheels turn, fields whisk by and face yet another hill with deadly ice cream or pie stands at the top. Indeed, there are so many varieties of pie that it would be an offense to the spirit of curiosity not to embrace such an opportunity to explore diversity!

The fatigue and exhilaration of riding RAGBRAI with Team Loras, however, pales in comparison to what is best in the event. Lengthy conversations with colleagues long-known or students recently-met make the miles vanish timelessly. Visits with alumni—some of them riding, some hosting, some just introducing themselves—make every day a celebration of the extended Loras family. Even the horde of bicycles riding together, taking care of each other, shouting cautions about road hazards and chatting about their experiences coming to Iowa from 50 states and six continents or enjoying music and food together at the end of the day is an inspiring common effort.

Riding with Team Loras in RAGBRAI is about connections and community. Through experience and adventure and a common identity in Loras, you create a unique bond with people you respect and admire. It often only takes a knowing head-shake at the end of a long day while you chug a liter of water to enjoy the connection and know you are standing together in a rarified space that won’t come in any other way. You feel the connection to the land, to the birds who seem to chuckle from above and especially to the Loras community—those who ride and those who host. It is a rich experience and a worthwhile adventure. Ride on!

Team Loras Joins RAGBRAI for the Second Year  
BY JOHN EBY, PH.D., ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

Buy your Loras biking jersey at:  
http://alumni.loras.edu/jersey11

Team Loras—RAGBRAI 2010. Pictured are: Blake Neebel (’13) (Dubuque, Iowa); Dan Neebel, Ph.D., associate professor of mathematics and computing and information technology; Hannah Eby; John Eby, Ph.D., associate professor of history; Whitney Arthofer and Allison Arthofer (’11).
Homecoming 2010

For some, coming back to campus for Homecoming is an annual event; others come home to Loras only once every few years or even once every few decades. No matter the frequency of their presence, Homecoming is meant to be a special time to catch up with old friends and professors, check out how the College has changed and reminisce about literally walking to class uphill both ways.

For the class of 1960 and the class of 1985, Homecoming 2010 was especially meaningful as they celebrated their 50th and 25th year reunions, respectively. Not only did Loras prevail over Buena Vista in the Homecoming football game, but an array of new activities were unveiled throughout the weekend. Besides the traditional events of the Homecoming Dinner and the Alumni Career Panel, there were several new additions to Homecoming this year, including: International Experiences Reception, Division of Social and Cultural Studies Breakfast, Alumni Hockey Reception and the 100 Years of Loras Players special events. Nearly 6,000 people took part in the festivities.

To view photos of Homecoming 2010 visit http://alumni.loras.edu and click on Photo Albums. Also check out the Homecoming 2010 slideshow at: www.loras.edu/homecoming2010video.

Loras Network of Chicago Spring Luncheon

Friday, May 6, 2011
11:30 am Registration | 12 noon – Lunch and program
Harry Caray’s, Wrigley/Old Comiskey Room
33 West Kinzie Street, Chicago, IL 60654

Featured Speaker, Tom Tauke ’72
Executive VP for Public Affairs & Communications at Verizon and Loras College Board of Regent Chair, will present “Smart Phones, High Tech & America’s Future”

Cost $50 per person
Kindly RSVP by Friday, April 29, 2011 with your menu choice online at http://alumni.loras.edu/springluncheon11
Or call 800-245-6727, ext. 7170 to reserve your spot.
Scholarship Events

Often the focus of Loras alumni events, raising money for scholarships, is a major way alumni give back to the College while having fun at the same time.

The Loras Networks of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, La Crosse, Dubuque and Waterloo/Cedar Falls all held a golf outing and dinner in their respective cities in the summer of 2010 to raise money for scholarships for local students.

Alumni Receptions

From jazz performances and sporting events to presidential receptions and tailgates, Loras alumni receptions take place all across the country in all shapes and forms.

Last summer, the Loras Network of Des Moines invited alumni to attend an I-Cubs game at Principal Park.

In addition, the Loras Network of Rockford held a scholarship luncheon in November, at which Jude Wilbers ('05) spoke about his Loras experience and his career as a local TV sportscaster.

At the $125 Reception, hosted in January 2011 by Jim ('71) and Deanna Brems and the Loras Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, attendees had the opportunity to win one of three $1,000 prizes. Proceeds from the event go to Loras College scholarships for local Cedar Rapids/Iowa City students.

When the Duhawk football season kicked off in the fall, the Loras Network of Dubuque hosted three Duhawk Den tailgates in the Athletic and Wellness Center parking lot.
The Loras Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City had a Duhawk Den tailgate in Cedar Rapids before the Loras vs. Coe game as well.

Alumni in Huntington Beach, Calif., and Atlanta, Ga., had the opportunity to meet with Msgr. Charles Lang (’61) and Pam Gerard, vice president for institutional advancement, to learn about current initiatives and accomplishments of the College.

Alumni across the country also had several opportunities to meet with current Loras students and professors. Students from a J-Term business course, led by Hugh Graham, associate professor of business administration, met with alumni in San Jose, Calif., at Amici’s Pizzaria.

As The Jazz Experience J-Term group traveled across the country, alumni were invited to attend jazz band and choir performances in St. Louis, Cincinnati, Memphis, Paducah, Chicago and Dubuque. The Loras Network of Chicago hosted a reception with the Loras students at St. Bernadette Catholic Church in Evergreen Park, Ill., and the students performed a Jazz Gala Concert when they returned to Dubuque on Jan. 19, after their tour.

**Young Alumni Events/Meetings**

Throughout the past few months, young alumni volunteers, members of the Young Alumni Advisory Board and the Office of Alumni Relations staff have helped plan events targeted (but not limited!) to young alumni who graduated in 2000 or later.

In September, alumni gathered at Park Farm Winery outside of Dubuque for wine-tasting and Loras trivia.

In November, nearly 20 young alumni attended the Young Alumni On-Campus Progressive Dinner, where they enjoyed hors d’oeuvres, gourmet sandwiches and dessert at various locations around the Loras College campus.

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**Holly Johnson (’08), Rachel Carroll (’08) and Rosie Guerrero (’08) at the Duhawk Den/Homecoming Tailgate.**

**Friends gathered at the Atlanta Alumni Reception. Pictured are seated: John O’Brien (’84), Nan (Grooss) Griffin (’79), Lisa (Grooss) Hoot (’77), Johnny Jones (’90), Amy (Meyer) Merry (’87), standing: Dan Marr (’74), Julie Marr, Kathleen Harrington, Bob Harrington (’61) and Dennis Sterk (’77).**

**President Jim Collins (’84) and the Board of Regents were present at alumni receptions in Naples, Fla., and Washington, D.C., where they mingled with alumni and gave a college update.**

The Washington D.C. reception was followed by a Georgetown basketball game, to which alumni received complimentary tickets.

**Tom White (’02), Jenna Kosek (’09) and Alyssa Hauser (’09) at the Young Alumni Wine-Tasting Event.**

In September, alumni gathered at Park Farm Winery outside of Dubuque for wine-tasting and Loras trivia.

**Ryan Kruse (’09), Mike Riesch (’09), Daniel “Digger” Kurt (’09) and Elizabeth Lampe (’10) at the Young Alumni Progressive Dinner.**
In December, more than 100 alumni attended the Loras Network of Chicago Alumni Holiday Party at the Cubby Bear in downtown Chicago.

Michaela Pease ('10), Carolyn Zens ('10), Leah Corkery ('09), Rachel Gunderson ('09) and Alisha Espey ('10) at the Loras Network of Chicago Alumni Holiday Party.

The young alumni of Dubuque also attended a Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey game at the new Mystique Community Ice Center on Jan. 14. If you are interested in planning young alumni events in your area, or if you would like to join the Young Alumni Advisory Board, please email elizabeth.elsbernd@loras.edu.

Happy Hours

Several alumni happy hours have been organized throughout the past several months, including a Rockford social at Der Rathskeller on June 11, 2010.

The Nov. 18 Shrink 'n Drink event in Milwaukee was a mixture of talk show, classroom lecture and bar chatter, featuring Loras alumnae and psychologist Julie Helmrich, Ph.D. ('78).

Kathleen Volk ('07), Julie Helmrich ('78), Mike Riesch ('09) and Terry McCauley ('78) at the Shrink n’ Drink in Milwaukee.

In December, the young alumni in Cedar Rapids/Iowa City planned a holiday happy hour at Moose McDuff’s.

In January the Loras Network of Des Moines gathered at Rock Bottom in West Des Moines to tour the brewery and enjoy a happy hour with fellow Duhawk alumni and friends of the College.

Patrick Freund ('07), Brittany Martinez ('09) and Erik Hulscher ('96) at the Loras Network of Des Moines Happy Hour.

Thanks to all of our alumni volunteers who have helped plan, organize, host or cover the cost of an event. We could not do it without you!

In December, the young alumni in Cedar Rapids/Iowa City planned a holiday happy hour at Moose McDuff’s.

Chris (MA ’03) and Bob (MA ’03) Smialek at the Dubuque Fighting Saints Hockey Game.

Kathy Volk, Denise Schieren, Mike Riesch and Laura Hill at the Loras Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City Happy Hour.
RECOGNITIONS

1950s

John Brunkhorst, M.D. (’51) was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Iowa Academy of Family Physicians. He was nominated for his inspiration and dedication to family medicine, being a role model for family physicians and for his significant contributions to the Waverly, Iowa, community and surrounding communities. Brunkhorst has been practicing medicine for more than 52 years. He has seen many changes in medicine and has helped hundreds of families along the way.

William Wuebker (’59) was the 233rd member inducted into the Iowa Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame. He is the baseball coach at Spalding Catholic High School in Granville, Iowa. The upcoming season will be his 38th season of coaching high school baseball. In the last 10 years, Wuebker’s Spalding teams have won more than 250 games, making six trips to the state tournament. The Spartans won the championship in his first two seasons and have since been runners-up three times, the last in 2005.

Thomas Cashman (’60) was presented the 44th annual award and honor as Chicago’s Outstanding Irishman in grateful recognition and appreciation of his leadership, his wisdom, his dedication to the public good, and his inspired service to the cause, character, and spirit of the Irish.

The Rev. Robert Beck, D.Min. (’62) was honored as a distinguished alum by Sacred Heart School in Waterloo, Iowa, as a part of National Catholic Schools Week. He attended Sacred Heart from 1945-58, graduating from what was then Sacred Heart High School. Beck is chaplain at the Franciscan Motherhouse in Dubuque and professor emeritus of religious studies at Loras College.

Vincent Drago (’67) published a book, entitled, The Sights of Rome: Uncovering the Legends and Curiosities of the Eternal City. The book takes readers on a fascinating visit to some of the most interesting sights of The Eternal City. Drago began his teaching career in New Iberia, La., as a high school Latin teacher. He taught in schools in New Orleans and Metairie, La., as well as in Jackson, Miss. Drago twice participated in the six-week Summer School of the American Academy in Rome. During his teaching career he traveled to Rome many times, for pleasure and for study, including a 14-month stay while on sabbatical leave in 1991-92. When he retired in 2000 he moved to Rome where he lives in the Trastevere neighborhood.

Loras Bleile (’68) joined the firm of Kane Appraisal & Real Estate Services, Inc., as an associate appraiser. He is licensed in Iowa, Illinois and Wisconsin. Bleile will continue his work as a real estate broker and auctioneer in Iowa and Illinois where he is licensed.

Thomas Engler (’68) retired in June after 42 years in education including 30 years as a public superintendent of schools. For the past 18 years, Engler has been the superintendent in Yorkville, Ill. During his term in Yorkville, the district grew from 1,400 to 5,200 students and from 140 employees to more than 500. He is a past board member and president of the Urban Superintendents Association of America; a member of the Kettering Foundation think tank-CADRE; a Horace Mann Fellow; a member of the Yorkville Chamber of Commerce Board and a founding member of the Yorkville Economic Development Corporation; a board member and past president of the Kendall County Special Education Cooperative; and a board member of the Indian Valley Vocational Center. He began his career in 1968 as a teacher in the Dubuque, Iowa, school system.

1960s

David Walsh (’71) was appointed a Distinguished Fellow at the 11th Annual International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) Conference. Walsh is the executive vice president and general counsel at SBLI USA Mutual Life Insurance Company, Inc. Walsh was a co-founder and the first chairman of the IAIS, which was established in 1994 and now serves insurance supervisory authorities of more than 160 jurisdictions.

Frederic Sievers (’75) has been named senior systems engineer for LiveProcess, the leading healthcare solution for emergency preparedness and response. Sievers will be responsible for training and implementation for all new LiveProcess accounts.

Rich Bares (’77) has been appointed as executive vice president, sales and marketing, for Riverain Medical (Dayton, Ohio), an industry leader and innovator in computer-aided detection and advanced visualization technologies. In his new role, Bares will be responsible for the global go-to-market and support strategies for the company.

Becky Herrig (’79) has been appointed internship coordinator for Clarke University. Her responsibilities will be to facilitate and coordinate the Internship for Credit Program, assist students and faculty in all areas of career development and build relationships with employers and the community. She has held leadership roles in the private and public sectors and has more than 30 years of teaching experience.

Dawn Swift (’79) was named a member of the Camp Albrecht Acres board of directors.

1970s

Ruby Mann (’82) received the Adventist Midwest Health’s pillar award, for her commitment to the company’s mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ. Mann has been the director of patient financial services for Adventist Midwest Management Services in Bolingbrook, Ill., the physician operations side of Adventist Midwest Health, for 17 years.

Pat Reidy (’80) was promoted to executive marketing manager at The McGraw-Hill Companies in Dubuque, Iowa.

Michael Sullivan (’81) joined Floor Show Furniture & Flooring as a flooring consultant in the retail flooring department. He has more than 28 years of sales experience.

Class Notes | Spring 2011
Tom Holme (’83) has been named fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science at Iowa State University. Holme is professor of chemistry at the University. He was awarded for distinguished contributions to chemistry education through developing assessments as a researcher and as the director of the American Chemical Society Examinations Institute.

Michael J. Cornelis (’84) was elected as the chairman of the Bakery Equipment Manufacturers and Allieds (BEMA) executive committee and board of directors on June 19, 2010. Cornelis is the vice president of Sasa-Demarle. He has been an active member of BEMA since 1985 and has served the organization as a member of the board of directors for six years.

Michael Jansz (’85) was sworn in as the newest associate judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit at the LaSalle County Courthouse in Ottawa, Ill. Admitted to the Illinois bar in 1988, Jansz is an associate with Herbolsheimer, Lannon, Henson, Duncan and Reagan, P.C. He first worked as a LaSalle County assistant state’s attorney until 1990 when he joined the Herbolsheimer firm. From 1996-98, he was president of the LaSalle County Bar Association. In 2009, his peers named him an Illinois Leading Lawyer.

Ann Oberg (’85) has joined the Allied Health Sciences staff at Mid-South Community College in West Memphis, Ark. She now serves as program specialist/faculty for the new Pharmacy Technician certificate program. Oberg has worked in hospital, government and long-term care pharmacies. She most recently coordinated the pharmacy technician program and taught at National American University (NAU) in Sioux Falls, S.D. Oberg is well-known on a national level as an item writer for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Exam (PTCE), a reviewer of pharmacy technician textbooks and as a speaker at pharmacy technician conventions. She is involved in national pharmacy associations and is the current vice president of the American Association of Pharmacy Technicians (AAPT).

John Steger (’85) has been named the special teams coordinator and inside linebackers coach at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Steger spent the past 11 seasons at University of Minnesota-Duluth, leading the Bulldogs to four playoff appearances and the 2008 Division II national title as the defensive coordinator.

Raymond Cavanaugh (’86) has been appointed as an associate judge of the 9th Judicial Circuit, which includes Knox, Warren, Fulton, McDonough, Hancock and Henderson counties in Illinois. Cavanaugh received his juris doctor in 1990 from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Ill.

Ric Arand (’89), head football coach for Lena-Winslow High School, recently led his team to a Class 1A Illinois State Football Championship. The Panthers tied a state championship game record with seven rushing touchdowns in a 47-14 pounding of Tuscola. The win was the first state championship in school history in any sport for the Panthers.

Karen Enright (’89) has been elected to the board of governors of the Illinois State Bar Association. The 25-member board directs the operations and activities of the statewide organization. Enright is a founding partner of the Chicago law firm of Winters Enright Salzetta & O’Brien, LLC. She is a successful attorney who has tried numerous cases involving complex medical and personal injuries. Enright received her juris doctor in 1992 from The John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Ill.


Paul Mierkiewicz (’89) has been named Loras College’s 25th head football coach. Mierkiewicz recently finished a successful 10-year head coaching run at Hastings College in Hastings, Neb., where he guided the Broncos to a 65-41 record.

Michael P. FitzPatrick (’92) has been named advertising director for the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque, Iowa. Borelli was previously senior print sales manager at Gazette Communications in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he had worked for 15 years. During his time at the Gazette, Borelli was promoted several times, with titles including: major accounts specialist, retail advertising supervisor, team coach manager and classified advertising manager.

Jerry McBride (’90) won a second term for the DuPage County Board (Republican Party) with 63 percent of the vote in the District 4 race. McBride was first elected to the county board four years ago.

Ted Borelli (’92) was named advertising director for the Telegraph Herald in Dubuque, Iowa. Borelli was previously senior print sales manager at Gazette Communications in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he had worked for 15 years. During his time at the Gazette, Borelli was promoted several times, with titles including: major accounts specialist, retail advertising supervisor, team coach manager and classified advertising manager.

The Rev. Dennis Quint (’92) has been assigned pastor of the Basilica of St. Francis Xavier in Dyersville, Iowa, and also St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Worthington, Iowa. Quint was ordained by The Most Rev. Jerome Hanus, O.S.B., in 1996. Quint’s first assignment was at St. Jude Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, where he spent three years. He then spent one year at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Dubuque, Iowa, before being assigned to St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Parkersburg, Iowa, where he served parishioners in Reinbeck, Parkersburg, Dike and Grundy Center for the past 10 years.
**Tom Bitter** ('93) was appointed as an Iowa District Court judge by Gov. Chet Culver. Bitter graduated from the University of Iowa’s College of Law in 1996 and for many years practiced alongside his father, Joseph Bitter, now deceased, at Bitter Law Office.

**Paula Neuhaus** ('95) has been appointed as director of Maquoketa Art Experience, a not-for-profit arts organization dedicated to revitalizing downtown Maquoketa, Iowa, through artist-in-residency programs, workshops and exhibitions. In this role she will be responsible for coordination and promotion of all arts programming, residencies, workshops, exhibitions and ongoing expansion as well as promotion of the Eastern Iowa Cultural Corridor. Neuhaus continues her work as a poet and writer, volunteers with several Dubuque art groups and manages two independent projects: Wordcure Spoken Word Series and Art Gumbo Micro-funding Program.

**Lora Neyens** ('95) was promoted to development editor II at The McGraw-Hill Companies in Dubuque, Iowa.

**Jean Luna** ('96) has been named half-time assistant principal at Kenwood High School in Clarksville, Tenn. She will also fill a half-time teaching position at the high school. For the past 13 years, Luna has educated children in the states of Iowa, Washington and North Carolina, most recently working as a first grade teacher at Sango Elementary School in Clarksville.


**Brian Unsen, CPA** ('97) was promoted to senior manager at Eide Bailly, LLP, in Dubuque, Iowa, specializing in providing audit services for governmental, nonprofit and employee benefit plan clients. He has been with the firm since 1998.

**Rick Casarez** ('98) is head coach of the Ruff House Training Center in Dubuque, Iowa, teaching mixed martial arts. Casarez is a former NCAA All-American wrestler at Loras College and professional mixed martial arts fighter.

**Kizzy Gaul** ('98) is now a certified pension consultant (CPC). Gaul is a retirement services compliance specialist for Dubuque Bank and Trust’s Wealth Management Group. The American Society of Pension Professionals & Actuaries confers the CPC credential to individuals who have completed a set of rigorous exams to demonstrate competence in specific areas of retirement and employee benefits consulting. She has been with DB&T’s Wealth Management Group since 2007.

**Chad Huntington** ('98) has been named a 2010 Rising Star by the Tri-State Business Times. The award annually recognizes business leaders age 40 and younger for their leadership and commitment to the Dubuque community. Huntington is currently the vice president of human resources at A.Y. McDonald Mfg. Co.

2000s

**Peter Arling** ('00) has been selected as a 2010 Rising Star by the Tri-State Business Times. The award annually recognizes business leaders age 40 and younger for their leadership and commitment to the Dubuque community. Arling is currently an attorney and shareholder at O’Connor & Thomas, P.C.

**Nathan Copeland** ('00) received a Public Service Award from the Mutual Insurance Association of Iowa at their 130th Annual Convention held in Des Moines, Iowa, on Nov. 15, 2010. He was presented with this award for his courageous actions on Oct. 2, 2010, helping rescue Danielle Eldeen and her two granddaughters, Kadie and Madison Schaef er, from their overturned minivan that had caught fire after crashing on Highway 151.

**Joni Dement** ('01) joined Honkamp Krueger Financial Services, Inc., as senior retirement services document specialist.

**Joe Splinter** ('01) was promoted to senior manager at Eide Bailly, LLP, in Dubuque, Iowa, specializing in providing audit and consulting services for nonprofit and healthcare clients. He has been with the firm since 2000.

**Anthony Stone** ('01) had the honor of serving as the defensive coordinator for the USA Women’s National Football Team in July 2010. The team won the first IFAF Women’s World Championship gold medal with a 66-0 victory over Canada at the Zinkensdammens IP Stadium in Stockholm, Sweden.

**Jesi Riggles** ('02) recently published her first novel, *Four Thousand Miles*, as an eBook. In addition to writing, she teaches creative writing workshops to teens through the University of Wisconsin Outreach Program and has served as a creative writing mentor for the Young Scholars Program through the Wisconsin Center for Academically Talented Youth. Riggles’ short story, “Death of a Woman,” has been published in the Detroit based literary magazine *The Furnace*.

**Sarah Ledger, M.D.** ('03) has joined the practice as a physician at Family Medicine Mount Pleasant in Mount Pleasant, Iowa. She will also serve as a full-time medical staff member at Henry County Health Center. Ledger specializes in family practice medicine with obstetrics.

**Steve Lukan** ('03) was named a 2010 Rising Star by the Tri-State Business Times in Dubuque. The award annually recognizes business leaders age 40 and younger for their leadership and commitment to the Dubuque community. Lukan is currently an account executive/producer at English Insurance in Dyersville, Iowa, and a state representative/assistant Republican leader for the Iowa House of Representatives.

**Brian Cassidy** ('04) joined The Friedman Group, Inc., as an account executive. He will specialize in personal and commercial lines insurance. Cassidy previously worked at Northeast Iowa Community College.
Eric Norman ('05) has recently been named a principle of MVP Services Group, Inc., and assumes the title of vice president of operations.

Stephen Polo ('05) accepted a position as ticket sales representative for Northwestern University Athletics in Evanston, Ill. Polo spent four seasons as a senior account executive with the Chicago Fire of Major League Soccer after spending one season with the Windy City Thunderbolts baseball team.

Kelli Schubert ('05) recently passed the Senior Professional in Human Resources certification exam. Schubert is a human resource administrator at Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C. She has been with the firm since 1999.

Michael Loebach ('06) was appointed assistant portfolio manager at Steele Capital Management, Inc., in Dubuque, Iowa.

Stephanie Mettille ('06) joined the firm of Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C. as senior tax staff.

Erin Becker ('07) recently became a certified Jazzercise instructor and offers classes in Farley, Iowa.

Candace Eudaley ('07) has been named a 2010 Rising Star by the Tri-State Business Times. The award annually recognizes business leaders age 40 and younger for their leadership and commitment to the Dubuque community. Eudaley currently works as a regional economic development and sustainability coordinator for the East Central Intergovernmental Association.

Kelsey Geraghty ('07) joined Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C. in the firm’s payroll division, HK Payroll Services, as a payroll services representative.

Jenna Law ('07) has joined Teach For America, the national corps of top college graduates who commit to teach for two years in urban and rural public schools in low-income communities.

Jacob Sturm ('07) has been named software solutions consultant at Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C.

Travis Tranel ('07) won a seat for the 49th Assembly District in the Republican Party. Tranel is an agribusinessman in Cuba City, Wis. He ran on a campaign of fiscal responsibility.

Brian DeMoss ('08) was promoted to senior associate at Eide Bailly, LLP, in Dubuque, Iowa. He specializes in providing audit services for governmental clients and employee benefit plans. DeMoss has been with the firm since 2008.

Elizabeth Elsbernd ('08) has received her master’s degree in comparative and international development education from the University of Minnesota. Elsbernd is the assistant director of alumni relations at Loras College.

Officer Sean O’Brien ('08) received the Medal of Valor from the Evanston police, fire and life safety department by the council chamber in Evanston, Ill. O’Brien received the top honor for freeing a coworker who was trapped in her vehicle after a fiery car crash on March 9, 2010. O’Brien was off duty at the time.

Patrick Regan ('08) was hired as an associate systems administrator at CybrHost Corporation in Independence, Ohio. He has more than three years of technical expertise in systems administration, analysis and development. Regan has developed his skills at such companies as Quadax, Inc. and Abison, Inc.

Allison Sanyi ('08) has been named head coach of the Golden Eagles girls’ soccer program at Wahlert Catholic High School in Dubuque, Iowa. Sanyi was previously the assistant coach for the team as well as an assistant coach at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

Jake Oeth ('09) is a legislative correspondent for Senator Tom Harkin, D-Iowa. After graduating from Loras Oeth began working with Harkin in an entry-level position that included answering telephones. Now he works on banking, housing, social security and small business issues. He spends most of his time in Washington, D.C., researching legislative issues, outreachng to the community and corresponding with various constituents.

Ashley Boffeli ('10) joined Express Employment Professionals in Dubuque, Iowa, as a staffing consultant.

Rosalie (Full) Falkena ('10) has been selected to serve on the committee for Camp CAYOCA, a Catholic youth camp in the Diocese of Sioux City, Iowa. The committee is an active working board that prepares and facilitates camp each summer for hundreds of grade school students. Falkena is a teacher at Spalding Catholic School in Alton, Iowa, teaching vocal music, religion and assisting with the speech team. As a volunteer at CAYOCA, Falkena has also served as a program assistant and music leader.

Nicole Koehler ('10) will be teaching the elementary Spanish program to fourth grade students at Eastland Middle School in Shannon, Ill. The school is implementing a required Spanish program at each grade on a yearly basis through eighth grade.

Rosanne Wedewer ('10) joined the firm of Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C., as a staff auditor. She previously worked as an intern with the firm.

Alumni

Jonathon Moser, D.C. (alumnus) graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic in June 2010. He joined Strutt Chiropractic Clinic in McGregor, Iowa, as a licensed chiropractor in January 2011.
MARRIAGES

Alaina Conrad ('97) to Carl Their on July 24, 2010.


Jody Hays ('00) to David Willing ('02) on May 29, 2010.

Alicia Flores ('02) to Kasey Schmitt on July 18, 2009.

Jeff Vogler ('02) to Michelle Driscoll on Oct. 23, 2010.

Jennifer Arenz ('03) to Jesus Sanchez on Oct. 23, 2010.

Brendan Houlihan ('03) to Zoe Pole on Aug. 21, 2010.

Aimee Reichel ('03) to Brian Tressel on Aug. 7, 2010.

Dallas Schiesl ('03) to Kristen Anderson ('04) on Nov. 27, 2010.

Sara Gerlach ('04) to Dave May on July 10, 2010.

Kara Kremer ('04) to Scott Collings on July 24, 2010.


Jen Weig ('04) to Pat Walsh on May 1, 2010.

Jacqueline Wuebker ('04) to Kiel Ronning on Dec. 16, 2010.

Arthur Bradford ('05) to Jessica Boelter on Sept. 18, 2010.

Steven Campbell ('05) to Danielle Pline ('05) on Aug. 7, 2010.

David Fautsch ('05) to Elizabeth Talbert on May 22, 2010.

Jonathan Heiar ('05) to Rachel Zaccaro on July 24, 2010.

Adele Lyden ('05) to Thomas Ratzlaff ('06) on Feb. 21, 2009.

Scott McGuire ('05) to Emily May ('10) on Oct. 9, 2010.

Abbey Rodham ('05) to Zach Kass on Oct. 16, 2010.

Jeff Tschiggfrie ('05) to Andrea Vrombault ('08) on July 17, 2010.

Nicole Boland ('06) to Joseph Kennedy on Sept. 25, 2010.

Geoffrey Moll ('06) to Stephanie Jandt ('06) on Oct. 24, 2009.

Phillip McCullough ('07) to Melissa Janning ('08) on July 10, 2010.

Andrew Reichert ('07) to Kristen Davidson ('08) on Sept. 19, 2009.

Isabelle Stephens ('07) to Lucas Pattarozzi ('08) on Aug. 28, 2010.

Madeline Cairney ('08) to Kyle Cross (alumnus) on Aug. 14, 2010.

Josh Oldham ('08) to Kristina Jensen ('08) on Sept. 25, 2010.

Carla Schmidt ('08) to S. Joseph Holloway on June 5, 2010.

Ashley Harvey ('09) to Brad Staner ('10) on June 26, 2010.

Andrew J. Miller ('09) to Diana Pena ('09) on Sept. 1, 2010.

Emily Moore ('09) to Ken Valentine on June 19, 2010.

Steve Anderson ('10) to Kelsey McElroy ('10) on July 31, 2010.

Elliot McAllister ('10) to Ashley Ruden ('10) on Sept. 18, 2010.
NEW ARRIVALS

1980s

To Dan ('86) and Michelle Shey, a daughter, Zoe, on Sept. 4, 2010.

To Liz (Hollenback) ('97) and Keith Recker, a son, Marshall William, on Nov. 19, 2010.

To Scott ('97) and Stephanie (Pearson) ('00) Rose, a daughter, Stella Francis, on May 6, 2010.

To Erik Lawrence, on May 11, 2010.

To daughter on Nov. 13, 2010.

To daughter, Anna Terese, on July 22, 2010.

To son, Ryan James, on Oct. 6, 2010.

To daughter on Feb. 3, 2011.

To daughter, Brynn Mae, on Aug. 21, 2010.

To daughter, Zoe, on Sept. 17, 2010.

To daughter on May 17, 2010.

To daughter, Ella, on Aug. 5, 2010.

To son, Samuel Kenneth, on Feb. 9, 2011.

To daughter on Oct. 26, 2010.

To daughter on May 16, 2010.

To Jennifer (Lyons) ('99) and Marty Splinter, a daughter, Madeline Martha, on July 2, 2010.

To Jennifer (Lyons) ('99) and John Dolphin, a daughter, Leelya Lynn, on Nov. 2, 2010.

To Carrie (Smith) ('98) and Jim Kennedy, a daughter on Jan. 7, 2011.

To Tricia (Nadermann) ('98) and Jeff Kuetter, a daughter, Hannah, on Nov. 28, 2010.

To Kelly (Kopp) ('98) and Ryan Daily, a daughter, Madeleine Martha, on July 2, 2010.

To Kizzy Gaul ('98), a daughter, Evan Christian, on Aug. 5, 2010.

1990s

To John ('90) and Jennifer Anglin, a daughter on Feb. 3, 2011.

To Andrew ('90) and Kristine (Neavins) ('92) Sargent, a son, Timothy Stafford-Rains, on Jan. 7, 2011.

To Mike ('92) and Angie FitzPatrick, a daughter, Brynn Mae, on Aug. 21, 2010.

To Michelle (Cannavo) ('92) and Rosario Valenti, a son on Jan. 31, 2011.

To Anne (Ellingson) ('94) and Jeff Short, a daughter, Avery Ellin, on Aug. 25, 2010.

To Brian ('94) and Traci Roling, a daughter on May 16, 2010.

To Patrick ('95) and Colleen Green, a daughter, Bridget Maeve, on May 10, 2010.

To Beth (Elwood) ('96) and Daniel Faidle, a son, Ryan James, on Oct. 6, 2010.

To Brian ('96) and Angie (Snyder) ('98) Jones, a daughter, Aliza Rose, on June 8, 2010.

To Brian ('96) and Melissa McAvan, a daughter, Anna Terese, on July 22, 2010.

To Sarah (Haas) ('96) and Matt Merz, a daughter on Nov. 13, 2010.

To Anthony ('96) and Wendy Tindall, a son, Erik Lawrence, on May 11, 2010.

To Jolene (Berner) ('97) and Terry Belken, a daughter, Tessa Ann, on Aug. 25, 2010.

To daughter on May 24, 2010.

To Jill (Hoffman) ('01) and Tom Kult, a daughter, Mackenzie Marie, on Oct. 11, 2010.

To Jamie ('01) and Cassandra (Sloan) ('01) McDonald, a son, James John, on Oct. 5, 2010.

To Sarah (Hyde) ('01) and Tom Nack, a daughter on Oct. 26, 2010.

To Matthew ('01) and Tracy Pivit, a son on Oct. 26, 2010.

To Chris ('01) and Jill (Morehead) ('01) Rubel, a daughter, Ella Grace, on July 27, 2010.

To Joe ('01) and Kari (Doudna) (MA '06) Splinter, a daughter, Addison, on Aug. 5, 2010.

To Carrie (Ring) ('02) and Bill Blaser, a son, Samuel Kenneth, on Feb. 9, 2011.

To Lunette (Schmidt) ('02) and Nick Elliott, a daughter on Dec. 13, 2010.

To Brian ('02) and Tammy Kallback, a son on Nov. 20, 2010.

To Brooke (Benz) ('02) and Jeremy Ludovissy, a son on Oct. 25, 2010.

To Jill (Vorwald) ('02) and Matt Sampson, a daughter, Caroline Reese, on June 27, 2010.
To Jill (Domeyer) ('02) and Mike Schlichte, a son, Devin Michael, on Nov. 23, 2010.

To Alicia (Flores) ('02) and Kasey Schmitt, a son, Chandler Christopher, on May 22, 2010.

To Katie (Koenigsfeld) ('03) and Chris Fisher, a daughter, Eleanor “Nora” Cecelia, on Sept. 8, 2010.

To Daniel ('03) and Molly (Demmer) ('04) Lahart, a daughter, Nora Jane, on Oct. 14, 2010.

To Andy ('03) and Angela Sadewasser, a son on Oct. 7, 2010.

To Chris ('03) and Lisa Vogel, a daughter on June 1, 2010.

To Mike ('04) and Dani (Gaydusek) ('06) Dodds, a son on Jan. 7, 2011.

To Tara Nelson ('04), a daughter on Aug. 16, 2010.

To Nick ('04) and Danielle Rubel, a son on June 5, 2010.

To Jacqueline Selken ('04), a son on July 19, 2010.

To Alicia (Davis) ('05) and Jermy Kapp, a daughter, MaryEllen Jean, on July 26, 2010.

To James ('05) and Sarah (Simon) ('07) Milner, a son, Maddox James, on July 13, 2010.

To Adele (Lyden) ('05) and Thomas ('06) Ratzlaff, a daughter, Kayleigh Alexis, on Dec. 14, 2009.

To Jermy ('05) and Sabrina Vondal, a daughter on Sept. 1, 2010.

To Mandy (Clewell) (MA '05) and Eric Reisner, a daughter, Cashtin Stanleigh, on Oct. 6, 2010.

To Jason ('06) and Kjersti Eilers, a daughter, Olivia Therese, on June 5, 2010.

To Andy ('06) and Dennetta Groomes, a daughter, Genevieve Therese, on Dec. 30, 2010.

To Tyler ('06) and Jaclyn (Kluck) ('07) Knopp, a daughter, Payton, on Nov. 7, 2010.

To Brooke (Boeckenstedt) ('06) and Josh Lawler, a daughter on July 22, 2010.

To Tyson ('07) and Veronica Farley, a son on July 7, 2010.

To Andy ('07) and Kimberly Reinert, a daughter on June 4, 2010.

To Travis ('07) and Stephanie (Herbst) ('07) Tranel, a daughter on Oct. 7, 2010.

To Andrew (alumnus) and Sarah Thibadeau, a daughter on May 20, 2010.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Mariah Moser, 2 ½, buried in the snow wearing her Loras gear! She is the daughter of Jonathon ('06) and Cheri (Strutt) ('06) Moser.

Cletus Meyer ('60) lost his Loras College class ring the week before Homecoming, during which his class would be celebrating their 50th reunion. His mother purchased the ring for him as a graduation present back in 1960 and he wore it proudly, remembering his mother’s kindness long after she passed. The ring was found by an unknown Good Samaritan at the Hy-Vee in Asbury, Iowa, and returned to Meyer.

Kelli (Smith) ('05) and Brian Uhlenkamp adopted a son, Nicholas, 3, in August 2010; a daughter, Lynn, 5, in September 2010; and a son, Jaxon, 2, in October 2010.

Kate (Kenneally) McLenaghan ('95) poses with Jeff McMahon, secretary/marathon chairman of the Tug McGraw Foundation and keyboardist and vocalist for Tim McGraw’s band, who is proudly sporting a Loras College hat. McLenaghan runs in honor of Jennifer (Galloway) McDevitt ('95), who recently lost her battle with brain cancer, and to help raise money for the Tug McGraw Foundation which funds pioneering brain tumor research and increases public awareness of the disease. This race was in Des Moines, Iowa.

Note: Kate (Kenneally) McLenaghan was incorrectly identified in the summer 2010 issue.

It’s easy! Search for “Loras College Alumni” on Facebook and stay up-to-date on Loras alumni news and events.
DEATHS

1930s


Edward Anderson, M.D. (‘37) on April 17, 2010, in Sun City West, Ariz.

1940s

Lawrence Healy (‘41) on May 16, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Dale Backer (‘42) on Sept. 5, 2010, in Austin, Texas.

Wilson Saunders (‘42) on Jan. 9, 2011, in Iowa City, Iowa.


James Mai, Sr. (‘44) on Jan. 9, 2011, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Christopher Oldenburg (‘45) on May 7, 2010, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Louis Barrett (‘46, A ’42) on June 26, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Frederick Rand (‘46) on Aug. 15, 2010, in Madison, Wis.


Al Castrogiovanni (‘49) on June 9, 2010, in Rockford, Ill.

Randall Foster (‘49) on April 23, 2010.

Earl Fugate (‘49) on April 13, 2010, in Janesville, Iowa.


1950s


Dan Conroy (‘50) on July 29, 2010.

Gilbert Copper (‘50) on June 2, 2010, in Fort Dodge, Iowa.

Sister Mary Ellen Flaherty, RSM (‘50) on Sept. 12, 2010, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.


J. Donald Ryan (‘50) on Feb. 18, 2010, in Libertyville, Ill.


James Stoneman (‘50) on April 7, 2010.


Eugene Zimmer (‘51) on Nov. 6, 2010, in LeMars, Iowa.


The Rev. Severius Blank (‘53) on Jan. 4, 2011, in Fort Worth, Texas.

Frank Koester (‘53) on Nov. 13, 2010, in Des Moines, Iowa.

Lt. Col. Loren Kula (‘53) on Sept. 16, 2010, in Albuquerque, N.M.


The Rev. Daniel Keppler (‘54) on July 21, 2010, in Monona, Iowa.

Maurice Welte (‘54) on Nov. 27, 2010, in Kansas City, Kan.


Donald Meyer (’57) on Jan. 9, 2011, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Frank Sovich (’57) on Jan. 9, 2010, in Ormond Beach, Fla.


Joseph Cash (’58) on Sept. 27, 2010, in Port Charlotte, Fla.

Richard Dolphin (’58, A ’52) on July 4, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Robert Mashek (’58) on Dec. 27, 2010, in Falls Church, Va.


1960s

Ken Bogusz (’60) on June 25, 2010, in Littleton, Colo.

A. Donald Kropp, M.D. (’60) on Sept. 10, 2010, in Sheboygan, Wis.

John Moran (’60) on April 12, 2010, in Moline, Ill.

James Sinclair (’60) on Nov. 15, 2010, in Utah.

David Thoennes (’60) on March 12, 2010, in San Diego, Calif.


Patrick Burr (’61) on July 2, 2010, in Davenport, Iowa.


Martin Bergeson (’62) on Feb. 25, 2010, in South Bend, Ind.


Norbert Hanzelka (’64) on Jan. 14, 2011, in Draper, Utah.

Sister Mary Madonna Meyer, PBVM (’64) on Oct. 16, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Robert Lucas (’65) on Dec. 12, 2011, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Daryl Irlbeck (’69) on Nov. 13, 2010, in Burnsville, Minn.


1970s

Robert Bartels (’71) on Nov. 30, 2010, in Iowa City, Iowa.

Dermot Hunt (’72) on May 8, 2010.


Robert J. Wild (’75, A ’47) on Aug. 27, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Edward Assip (’76) on May 26, 2010, in Sarasota, Fla.


1980s

Daniel Markham (’81, ’86) on Sept. 18, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Mark Fasselius (’82) on Dec. 21, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Angela (Beasley) Thomas (’84) on Nov. 10, 2010, in West Burlington, Iowa.

1990s

Linda (Denlinger) Kauffmann (’93) on July 26, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Jennifer (Galloway) McDevitt (’95) on Nov. 16, 2010, in Palatine, Ill.

Angela (Weisberg) Burger (’99) on Nov. 21, 2010, in Gowrie, Iowa.

Alumni


Joe Burgermeister (alumnus) on Dec. 28, 2010, in Marion, Ill.


William Derby (alumnus, A ’52) on Nov. 4, 2010, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

James Derks (alumnus) on Oct. 8, 2010, in Fredonia, Wis.

Richard Dwyer (alumnus) on Oct. 9, 2010, in Woodstock, Ill.

Cyril “Mike” Elwanger (alumnus) on July 21, 2010, in Sioux City, Iowa.

Frederick Gallardo (alumnus, A ’48) on Nov. 12, 2010, in Cathedral City, Calif.
Marvin Gassmann (alumnus) on July 26, 2010, in Earlville, Iowa.


Jesse Hamel (alumnus) on July 21, 2010, in Reno, Nev.


Herbert Herber (alumnus, A ’44) on Sept. 15, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Gary Kalishek (alumnus) on May 9, 2010, in New Hampton, Iowa.

George Kallansrud (alumnus) on Nov. 8, 2010, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Robert Kallmer (alumnus) on April 16, 2010, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Sr. Mary Eunice Kane, PBVM (alumnus) on July 7, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Ralph Kennedy (alumnus) on June 7, 2010, in New Hampton, Iowa.

Ronald Kuczynski (alumnus) on April 23, 2010, in Loomis, Calif.

Lloyd Lensing (alumnus) on Sept. 28, 2010, in La Crescent, Minn.


Michael Molloy, Sr. (alumnus) on Nov. 11, 2010, in Alton, Ill.

Charles Murphy (alumnus) on Jan. 6, 2011, in Clinton, Iowa.

Sr. Mary Ellen Murphy, PBVM (alumnus) on June 29, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Michael Neyens (alumnus, A ’64) on Oct. 4, 2010, in Jaffrey, N.H.

Charles Offerman (alumnus) on Sept. 10, 2010, in La Crosse, Wis.


Eugene Quinn (alumnus) on July 20, 2010, in Rockford, Ill.


Sister Mary Dominica Schumann, PBVM (alumnus) on May 9, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.

Leon “Bud” Sheehan (alumnus) on Nov. 8, 2010, in La Crosse, Wis.

Francis Spahn (alumnus) on Aug. 16, 2008, in Hartford, Wis.

Vince Stankiewitz (alumnus) on Oct. 27, 2010, in Beloit, Wis.


Gerald Worzella (alumnus) on July 15, 2010, in Stevens Point, Wis.

Academy


Elmer Nehls (A ’40) on Jan. 30, 2011, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Daniel Bahl (A ’43) on May 26, 2010, in Fort Madison, Iowa.


Richard Recker (A ’48) on Aug. 29, 2010, in Rio Rancho, N.M.


Thomas Christ (A ’49) on Jan. 18, 2011, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.


Donald Schlader (A ’50) on July 30, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.


Joseph Bleile (A ’58) on Aug. 23, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.


John Tow (A ’60) on July 10, 2010, in Mobile, Ala.


Robert Moore (Academy) on Nov. 27, 2010, in Dubuque, Iowa.
Life-Long Learning at Loras

By Ray J. Werner (’11)

It was nearly four years ago when I entered my first Loras College classroom. I had College Algebra at 8 a.m. on that very first day, way back in the fall of 2007. And to that class, I was 10 minutes late. I was not late because I had overslept. I had risen an hour ahead of time—nervous, excited, giddy—and arrived at what I thought to be the classroom, with time to spare. However, nobody else showed up! So, my natural instinct was to crack open my brand-new laptop and check my class schedule; I was in the right place. Then I checked my email, only to find the registrar had moved the class to a larger room in order to accommodate more people. In a panic, I darted up the stairs to the newly designated classroom. As I rushed in, 10 minutes late to my first college class, the professor sternly informed me I was never be late to his class again. The other students chortled and jeered in response. Due to embarrassment, I was never late to that class again.

Things have undoubtedly changed since that awkward and discomforting moment nearly four years ago. I have made a multitude of great friends and helpful acquaintances; I met fun-loving neighbors and supportive peers; and I learned from brilliant teachers and fascinating role-models. It has been through these relationships my college experience flourished and I have come to a great, appreciative understanding of what a liberal arts education truly is. In my wide-ranging classes, from history to philosophy, and economics to music, I have been able to make inspiring connections and build skills many people my age might lack. These people and these classes, united with my extra-curricular involvements—concert choir, chamber choir, Knights of Columbus, student union, and so forth—have made me a powerful and skillful individual. It is difficult to explain in words, but the sum total of these things has made me a powerful and socially-conscious citizen. As cheesy as it may sound, my life has made manifest the truly meaningful benchmarks and dispositions Provost Jacobsen discussed earlier in this issue. A specific example of this manifestation is in my involvement with Tallgrass Historians, a historical preservation and archaeology company based out of Iowa City. With this company, I have been employed for nearly two years working on projects in the Dubuque and Cedar Rapids areas. My primary role is to assist in archaeological excavations and analyses to preserve and document both historic and pre-historic artifacts, in order for public works projects to utilize the space. The Loras College liberal arts curriculum has definitely prepared me both for this and my upcoming graduate program in public history. It has not only prepared me in knowledge but in skills and attributes as well. The four dispositions help me to demonstrate this, but I need not go into exhaustive detail as to how ethical decision-making, responsible contributing, reflective thinking and active learning are integral behaviors for the workplace.

As you are Loras alumni and workplace professionals yourselves, I am sure you can understand how these qualities can set a potential employee above the rest. I find it important to reflect on these dispositions from time to time—practicing reflective thinking—and it helps me stay goal-oriented and community-minded. It just makes life easier and I hope you do the same. Furthermore, this seemingly-trivial exercise can help people to reflect on their Loras experiences and gain a newfound appreciation for their time, effort and money spent here. It helps me to understand and whole-heartedly appreciate the personal advancements I have made from the time I showed up late to my very first class to the time I currently spend working with professional archaeologists. A liberal arts education, in my view, has been the best investment of my life. It propels me deep into the contemporary world of competition, technology and temptations. It prepares me for these challenges.

Ray Werner (’11) (Dysart, Iowa) assisting the Tallgrass Historians with an archaeological excavation.