

LORAS

Summer 2026 **MAGAZINE**

IN THIS ISSUE

Rising Together
Turning Purpose into Action



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LORAS COLLEGE

SUMMER 2026 | VOLUME 72, ISSUE 1

Loras, as a Catholic liberal arts college, creates a community of active learners, reflective thinkers, ethical decision-makers, and responsible contributors in diverse professional, social, and religious roles. Inspired by the Catholic intellectual tradition and rooted in the transformative power of learning, Loras enriches lives and serves humanity.

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Rachel Moser ('17)

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President's Letter

DEAR LORAS Community,

As I reflect on my first year as president of Loras, I am filled with deep gratitude for the people, mission, and momentum that define our extraordinary community. Serving Loras is not simply a leadership role, it is a sacred

responsibility rooted in our Catholic faith, tradition, and a shared commitment to forming lives of purpose.

While recent coverage has highlighted one financial measurement regarding our viability, the whole picture shows the significant progress made in stabilizing Loras financially. We have seen record philanthropic support, raising more than \$20.1 million in the last thirteen months, an amount never achieved in school history. Through sound fiscal stewardship, we strengthened our financial position by reducing long-term bank debt by 14%, improving net cash flow by nearly \$12.5 million, and improving operational budget results by more than \$8 million. Together, these gains have helped move Loras to a positive seven-figure net operating outcome, a measurable sign of stronger financial footing and disciplined progress already underway.

Our work over the past year sends a powerful message that people believe in Loras College. We remain confident in the strength of the Loras experience, as evidenced by student outcomes that consistently exceed regional and national benchmarks and the enduring value of a Loras education.

This year has reaffirmed for me that our students are our "why". Across campus, I see students searching for more than a degree. They seek meaning, vocation, belonging, and faith. They find it through rigorous academic experiences, undergraduate research, internships, athletics, the arts, service opportunities, and in moments of prayer in Christ the King Chapel. Together, these experiences shape graduates prepared not only for successful careers, but for lives grounded in faith, integrity, compassion, and service.

Our campus community has accomplished much together this year. Students excelled in classrooms, laboratories, performance spaces, and athletic and academic competition, demonstrating the excellence that defines Duhawks. This spring, we had seven All-American track and field athletes, and our softball team advanced to the NCAA tournament for the first time in Loras' history, winning their first two games. We strengthened our Catholic identity by expanding participation in Mass, Adoration, and Bible study while deepening our partnership with the Archdiocese and the wider Dubuque community. First year enrollment continues to grow, reflecting renewed confidence among prospective students and families.

Personally, this year has taught me that leadership at Loras is deeply relational. It happens in conversations with students, collaboration with faculty and staff, engagement with alumni and friends, and shared prayer as a community guided by the Holy Spirit. I have seen firsthand, from talking with students about their research projects, their career goals, their leadership experiences, and their service to church and community, that the world needs more Duhawks.

I look forward to my second year as president, mainly because I believe the "why" for Loras College has never been stronger. Our path remains clear. We will continue to be anchored in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit while rising together to meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's world. Inspired by our values of truth, respect, responsibility, excellence, and service, we will continue to form leaders who build bridges, strengthen communities, and live their vocation with purpose.

God Bless & Let's Go Duhawks!

Michael H. Doyle, J.D. ('91)
President



FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

News

Susan Crook, Ph.D.,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS
won the *Carol Crawford Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching* from the Mathematical Association of America Iowa.

Christina Lee, Ph.D.,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH was accepted to *Health and Risk Communication in Pandemics and Beyond: Strategies for a System-Thinking and Equity-Driven Approach*, July 6-17, at The American University of Rome (AUR), Rome, Italy.

Yoon Heo, Ph.D.,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF SPORT MANAGEMENT Williams, A. S. and Byon, K. K. (in press). *Understanding the sport product collaborations in the lens of limited editions*. Sport Marketing Quarterly, 35(3).

Alli Kempen, Ph.D.,
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY recently published a chapter. Kempen, A. (2025). *Three-membered ring systems*. In Progress in Heterocyclic Chemistry, Vol. 37, pp. 33-52. Elsevier.

David Cochran, Ph.D.,
PROFESSOR OF POLITICS presented findings from his latest book, *The Catholic Case Against War* (University of Notre Dame Press), during last year's global Synod at the Vatican, he was invited this year to join the newly-formed *Catholic Institute for Nonviolence* in Rome, helping to coordinate its research section on Nonviolent Practices and Strategic Power.

Sabbaticals

Nancy Zachar Fett ('90), LMSW,
PROFESSOR OF SOCIAL WORK
Sabbatical work: *Guiding an Improved Dementia Experience* (GUIDE)

Emily DiFilippo, Ph.D.,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF SPANISH
Sabbatical work: *Marie Antoinette Rehder Center for Academic Resources* (MARC)

Awards

Staff Recognition Award

Tricia Borelli, M.A.,
DIRECTOR OF COUNSELING CENTER

Rising Star Award

Melanie Buckingham, M.S.,
DIRECTOR OF STUDENT LIFE

Excellence Award

Mary Kay Haverland,
DIRECTOR OF USER SERVICES

Mike & Linda Buddy Teaching Excellence Award

Kathryn DeShaw, Ph.D.,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF KINESIOLOGY AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

John Henry Cardinal Newman Teaching Excellence & Campus Leadership Award

Rob Keller, Ph.D.,
PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS

John Cardinal O'Connor Chair for Catholic Thought

Kate Cooper, Ph.D.,
PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY

Tenure & Promotions

Awarded Tenure and Promoted to Associate Professor

Lindsey Bartgis, Ph.D.,
PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM

Traci Phillipson, Ph.D.,
PHILOSOPHY PROGRAM

Bryce Taylor, Ph.D.,
BIOLOGY PROGRAM

Promoted to Full Professor

Eric Eller, Ph.D.,
DEAN, NOONAN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS, ENGINEERING, AND INNOVATION / FINANCE PROGRAM

Jacob Kohlhaas, Ph.D.,
RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND THEOLOGY PROGRAM

Aditi Sinha, Ph.D.,
BIOLOGY PROGRAM

Retirees

Glenn Pohland, D.M.A.,
PROFESSOR OF MUSIC
17 YEARS

Pam Ben,
SECRETARY FOR ALL-SPORTS CAMP
24 YEARS

Amy Westermeyer,
SENIOR INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST
28 YEARS

Pete Ludovissy,
BUILDING MAINTENANCE WORKER
30 YEARS

Traci Muller,
CUSTODIAN FOR MAINTENANCE
32 YEARS

Craig Schaefer ('89), M.A.,
PROFESSOR OF CREATIVE MEDIA
33 YEARS

Mary Kay Haverland,
DIRECTOR OF USER SERVICES
43 YEARS

Colleen (Galligan) Kuhl ('81), M.A.,
RELIGIOUS STUDIES/THEOLOGY LEADERSHIP COORDINATOR
45 YEARS



STAY
CONNECTED



ON THE COVER

Kate Cain
('26) and
Neveah Jones
('26)

CAMPUS NEWS

3+3 Law Program

qualified Loras students to complete three years of undergraduate coursework before transitioning directly into law school, earning both their bachelor's degree and Juris Doctor in six years.

"Loras College takes pride in providing a rigorous educational experience for our students," said Loras College President **Mike Doyle** ('91). "Guided by the Holy Spirit, our community embraces the core values of truth, respect, responsibility, excellence and service, aligning with the mission of Marquette University Law

School. Loras College partnered with Marquette University Law School for a 3+3 law program, creating an accelerated pathway for students pursuing careers in law. The agreement allows

School. Loras prepares students for one of the most challenging and rewarding terminal degree opportunities in law through Marquette. As a proud alumnus of both Loras College and Marquette University Law School ('94), I look forward to supporting and celebrating Duhawks as they pursue this 3+3 agreement between Loras and Marquette."

Loras also maintains 3+3 partnerships with the University of Iowa College of Law, Drake University Law School, and Northern Illinois University College of Law, expanding opportunities for students seeking flexible and competitive law school pathways. The addition of the Marquette University agreement further strengthens the College's commitment to preparing students for advanced professional study while deepening its shared mission in faith and academic excellence.



Clinical Mental Health Counseling

Program Receives Accreditation



The Clinical Mental Health Counseling program at Loras College prepares students for professional practice across a wide range of settings, including community mental health agencies, healthcare organizations, schools, and private practice. Through instruction from dedicated faculty, graduates build strong competencies in ethical practice, assessment and diagnosis, counseling interventions, multicultural counseling, and the development of a professional identity.

Earning accreditation from the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)—the national gold standard for counseling education—affirms that Loras' curriculum, faculty, clinical training, and student outcomes meet the rigorous expectations of the counseling profession.

"Although Loras has been adhering to the CACREP standards for many years, being accredited emphasizes the importance of our professional identity as counselors and creates unity and consistency throughout the profession. The CMHC program at Loras did a wonderful job preparing me for a career as a therapist. The curriculum is well-rounded and addresses various aspects of the professions (ethics, cultural considerations, legal implications, etc.) that goes beyond counseling interventions and theoretical orientations," said **Emma Earles** ('21, M.A. '25), who is currently a Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate (LPCC) in Colorado.



CACREP accreditation is widely regarded as a mark of excellence in counselor education. The American Counseling Association (ACA) Governing Council passed resolutions formally recognizing CACREP as the accrediting body for Counselor Education programs. Programs undergo an extensive review process, including a comprehensive self-study, external peer review, site visit, and evaluation of curriculum design, clinical experiences, and faculty credentials.

"The current faculty have always focused on quality, well-rounded and personalized education to guide our graduate students in development of their professional counseling identity and growth as a person. Having CACREP accreditation verifies the quality of our educational processes. We are excited to continue to develop sound counseling professionals who are assets to the communities they serve," said **Steffanie Schilder, Ph.D., LMHC**, Program Director of Clinical Mental Health Counseling.

STUDENT NEWS

Future Business Leaders of America Wins Big in Las Vegas

Loras College students under the guidance of professors Angella Donovan, DBA and Tama-Lea Lorenzen, MBA, made an impressive showing at the 2026 Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) Collegiate National Leadership Conference, earning several top finishes while competing against students from colleges and universities across the country.

Held in Las Vegas, Nevada, the conference brought together more than 1,300 students for business competitions, professional development opportunities, and networking experiences. FBLA helps students develop leadership, communication, and career-readiness skills that extend beyond the classroom and into their future professions.

Among the standout performances, **Cana Duckworth** ('28) became a national champion in Business Ethics and earned a top-10 finish in Sports Management and Marketing. **Rory Heer** ('26) earned seventh place in Foundations of Entrepreneurship, while **Prashant Bhattarai** ('27) placed ninth in Foundations of Economics. **Brianna Baron** ('26) also represented Loras well, earning an eleventh-place finish in Job Interview.

In the team event Business Presentation, **Connor Day** ('26), **Rory Heer** ('26), and **Griffin Dement-Graham** ('29) worked together to earn ninth place among forty-four competing teams.

The students' success reflects the dedication and preparation they brought to the national stage. Competing against some of the best collegiate business students in the country, they showcased their knowledge, professionalism, and ability to apply classroom learning in real-world scenarios.

Seeing Loras students recognized during national award ceremonies was a proud moment for the College and a reminder of the opportunities available to students who challenge themselves through hands-on learning experiences.

Limestone Review

For thirty-one consecutive years, Loras College students have earned recognition in the Delta Epsilon Sigma National Undergraduate Writing Competition. Delta Epsilon Sigma is a national honor society for students at Catholic colleges and universities and this competition celebrates excellence in undergraduate writing across the country. These achievements are often highlighted alongside *The Limestone Review*, Loras College's creative arts journal, which showcases outstanding student work in writing, visual art, and other creative disciplines. Together, these recognitions reflect the creativity, dedication, and scholarly excellence of Loras students.



2025 Alpha (Best of Genre) Winners

Alicia Nachtman ('25)

Ellie Coleman ('25)

Lydia Nelson ('27)

Dominic Mailloux ('26)

2025 Delta Epsilon Sigma (DES) Award Winners

FIRST PLACE

Short Fiction: **BethAnnie Harman** ('24), "Mother"

SECOND PLACE

Creative Nonfiction: **Jacob Klaung** ('24), "The Turtle Queen at Lynford Creek"

FIRST PLACE

Critical/Analytical Essay: **Dominic Mailloux** ('25), "The Malevolent Beholder"

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

GiGi Shallenberger ('28)

Two poems published in honors student literacy journal *Heartland Review*.

Ruben Botali Kimbulu ('26) creative media and religious studies graduate, was born and raised in Kinshasa, the capital city of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ruben moved to the United States with his brother after graduating high school and together they spent two years at Columbus Catholic High School in Waterloo to earn their U.S. diploma. Guided by "unspoken expectations", Ruben initially enrolled at Loras College as an engineering major.

Midway through his time at Loras, Ruben experienced a pivotal moment. Prompted by a professor's question—whether engineering was truly his passion or one shaped by outside expectations—he took time to reflect. The answer led him to change his major, a decision that sparked a new sense of purpose and success in the classroom.

"I was (studying) the things that animate me the most: faith and storytelling."

CALLED TO SOMETHING MORE

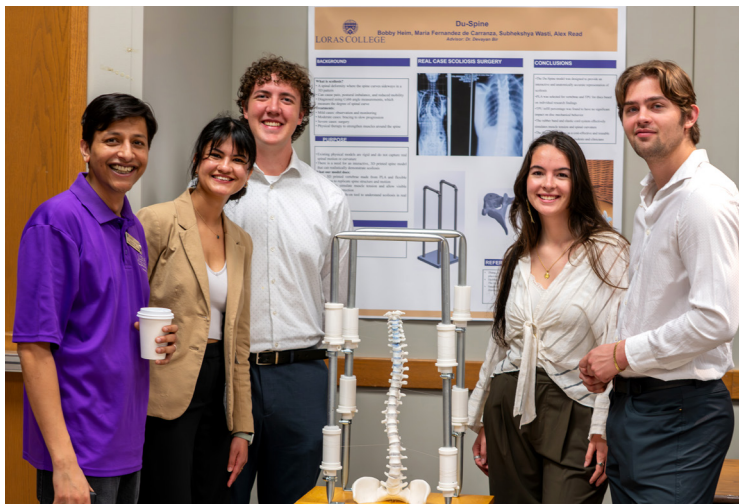


During his time at Loras College, he immersed himself in campus life through a wide range of involvement opportunities. Outside the classroom, he participated in Soccer Club, Student Government, and Spiritual Life, while also serving as a Resident Advisor and Bible Study leader—roles that reflected both his leadership and commitment to community.

Following graduation, Botali will begin the next chapter of his journey at University of Notre Dame. He has been accepted into the Echo Graduate Service Program, where he will pursue a master's degree in theology. The program combines academic study with hands-on ministry, as participants serve the Catholic Church as parish or diocesan apprentices, middle and high school theology teachers, or campus ministers, while completing online coursework and participating in summer sessions on campus.

"As long as I can keep learning about God and loving his people & loving myself, I think I'll be OK."

THE LEGACY CONTINUES



The Legacy Symposium is held on campus each spring, celebrating the spirit of academic excellence that defines the Loras experience.

Inspired by Monsignor **James Barta's** † ('52) passion for a Catholic liberal arts education, the symposium has grown into a dynamic and engaging event. Monsignor Barta was known for his many roles at Loras College—priest, counselor, psychology professor, department chair, academic dean, president, and regent. But his passion was teaching. In 1988, Msgr. Barta's presidential inaugural address, he talked specifically about the liberal arts in ways that resonate with the purpose of the Legacy Symposium.

His words continue to inspire as we celebrate the accomplishments of scholarship and creativity exhibited today by the Loras College community.

"The liberal arts college looks for the enquiring mind to do away with ignorance. It builds libraries, it brings together an informed faculty, it provides experiences in the hope of stimulating the mind," said Msgr. Barta.

The Legacy Symposium offers students, emerging scholars, and future professionals the opportunity to present their research, share ideas, and gain valuable real-world experience in a supportive academic setting.

LORAS LEGACY
SYMPOSIUM
2026

STUDENTS
225

STUDENT
PRESENTATIONS
124

FACULTY
PRESENTATIONS
73

LEGACY LECTURE

The inaugural Legacy Lecture was delivered by Glenn Pohland, D.M.A., professor of music and director of instrumental music, who retired at the conclusion of the academic year. This keynote event served as the successor to the longstanding Last Lecture tradition at Loras College. The Legacy Lecture provides an opportunity for reflection on professional experience, scholarship, and contributions to the college community.

“BA, BA, BA, BUM...”

These four notes, this brief musical phrase, are perhaps the most recognizable in all of music history. Composed by Ludwig van Beethoven between 1804 and 1808, this opening motif unfolds into the immortal Symphony No. 5, a work that changed the course of music. The phrase remains relevant today, appearing in hundreds of films, television shows, and advertisements. But what do these four notes actually say or mean? In this lecture, Dr. Glenn Pohland shared his reflections on this motif and what it has meant to him throughout his career. With the help of the Loras College Jazz Ensemble, he explored each of the four notes and how they have shaped his professional journey.



2026 LORAS LEGACY FILM FESTIVAL

Hosted by DuMedia, The 2026 Loras Legacy Film Festival, celebrated the work of Loras College's creative media students, featuring genres from documentaries to narratives.



Watch the videos here!



Lead Where You Stand

On Saturday, May 2,
Loras College
celebrated its 187th
Commencement
Ceremony.



As President **Mike Doyle** ('91) welcomed the Class of 2026—alongside their families, friends, alumni, and community members—he reflected on their journey at Loras College and offered three simple yet powerful takeaways to guide them as they step into life beyond campus.

BE ORDINARY. Embrace the everyday habits of integrity, kindness, and responsibility that, over time, shape who you are. It means showing up consistently—with humility and purpose—even when no one is watching. In a world drawn to headlines and viral moments, it's easy to overlook a quieter truth: lasting change is most often built through small, steady acts done well.

BE LOCAL. We are called to serve where we are planted. Pay attention to the place you find yourself—the people who live there and the needs that surround you. To “be local” is to recognize that challenges are not someone else's responsibility; they are ours. It means asking who feels unseen, who is unheard, and who may be left out—and considering what you can do to make a difference. You may not be able to solve everything, but you can always do something. You can begin by building bridges where there is division.

BE COMMITTED. Commitment calls for staying engaged, even when the outcome is uncertain. It means continuing

to care when the work becomes difficult and holding fast to your values when they are tested. It invites time for reflection and prayer, seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit. Ultimately, it is a commitment to carry the lessons of your Loras College education into your workplaces, parishes, and everyday lives.

“Commit to carrying your Loras education forward into your workplace, parishes, and everyday lives. Be ordinary. Be local. Be committed. Carry this forward. Let it guide you in the years ahead. As you leave Loras today, do so with not only a degree, but with a responsibility to help build a world that reflects the values that you learned here.”



SHAPED BY *the Journey*

Chloe Dunigan ('26), director of communications for student government, addressed her fellow classmates with a message of reflection and gratitude. Looking back on their time at Loras College, she recognized the many different paths, experiences, and choices that ultimately brought each member of the class to graduation day.

“The path was never straight. It was meant to shape you. Every challenge strengthened you. Every turn taught you something. Every moment you chose to keep going, brought you here. To this exact moment.”

Each path has laid a strong and personal foundation for every student. Chloe encouraged her peers to build on that foundation as they move forward—making choices today that their future selves will reflect on with pride.

“The pride we feel today is not just about earning the degree. It comes from the growth, the resilience, and the community that shaped who we are and who we are becoming. And as we leave Loras, we don't leave that behind. We carry that with us, wherever we go.”

More Than *a Career*

That's a wrap for **Craig Schaefer** ('89) after thirty-three years at Loras College. In that time, he has carried many titles—professor of media studies/creative media, award-winning filmmaker, proud alumnus, and dedicated member of the faculty. This year, he added one more: commencement speaker for the College's 187th Commencement Ceremony. As he retires from the classroom, Schaefer was honored with the title of professor emeritus.

"I'm a guy who loves working with students and making films to share other people's stories. I've been blessed to work with nearly a thousand incredibly talented students and watch them go onto great success. Former students who sat right where you are now."

Schaefer offered a blend of inspiration, wisdom, and humor through stories shaped by his thirty-three-year journey at Loras. In preparing for his address, Schaefer turned to those who knew his impact best—his former students—asking them to share a word, quality, or insight they would want to pass on to the graduating class. Here is what they had to say:

BE DARING. Don't just think big, dare to go after it. Dare to try because you already have everything you need to succeed.

BE UNDETERRED. Challenges and burdens are part of every journey, but what matters is the resolve to push forward.

LIVE A HEARTFELT & AUTHENTIC LIFE. Missionary priest and Loras graduate Fr. Ray Herman became known as "Cigar Box Ray" for the simplicity and generosity that defined his life. Devoted to serving the poor, he gave away nearly everything he owned to those in need. When he died, all his belongings were sent home—and fit inside a single cigar box. His life stands as a powerful example of what it means to live with authenticity and heart.

CULTIVATE WISDOM. Ask questions when clarity is needed. Speak less, listen more, and learn from your mistakes. The communities you will serve, and the world you will help shape will call on you to contribute thoughtfully and wisely to challenges.



BE KNOWLEDGEABLE. As graduates of Loras College, you already carry a strong foundation built through late night studying, research papers, labs, internships, and study abroad experiences, but learning does not end here—continue to grow and deepen your expertise in the years ahead.

SERVANT LEADER. Carry your Loras experience forward by serving your families, your communities, and those in need. The opportunities to make a difference may come when you least expect them—and your willingness to lead through service will have a lasting impact.

D-U-H-A-W-K-S

"It's not just about being for something; it's about turning that belief into action. And that's what Loras people do. We are Duhawks. The world needs Duhawks. Go show them why."



\$20.1 MILLION

Reasons for Gratitude

Loras College is excited to announce the thirteen-month, \$20 million *Rooted in Legacy, Rising Together* cash campaign launched in May of 2025 was successful. As of May 31, 2026, Loras achieved its goal, raising \$20.1 million, while marking the College's best fundraising year in school history. This goal was accomplished through the generosity and support of 5,500 alumni, friends, and community members who believe in Loras College, see the impact of our graduates, and believe Duhawks make a difference in the world by living their vocation.

"Be who God meant you to be, and you will set the world on fire." Following the words of St. Catherine of Sienna, Loras has continued to reaffirm and strengthen its commitment to our mission of a Catholic liberal arts college, creating a community of active learners, reflective thinkers, ethical decision-makers, and responsible contributors in diverse professional, social, and religious roles.

Witnessing this commitment to students' Catholic education under the leadership of President **Mike Doyle** ('91), **Mike** ('64) and **Geri Rice** generously gifted \$5 million to kick off the \$20 million campaign. At that time, they asked to remain anonymous but requested a challenge to the Loras community to match their \$5 million gift. The Loras community answered by alumni, friends, parents and benefactors rising together to meet the challenge.

"We made our initial \$5 million gift because we believe in Loras' mission, vision, and the bold plan shared by President Doyle," said Mike Rice. "Loras changes lives and graduates students who will become change-makers in their own communities and professional lives. Having

experienced Loras' impact first-hand, Geri and I wanted to provide momentum towards achieving the \$20 million goal and inspire the Loras community to do the same."

Regent emeritus **Paul** ('60) and **Fran Breitbach** also made a \$5 million gift to support the campaign, as they were moved by the Rice's generosity and the Loras community's response to the challenge match.

As Mike and Geri saw the momentum, trust, and success in achieving these goals, they chose to give an additional \$1 million to continue Loras' momentum established during the *Rooted in Legacy, Rising Together*.

Their incredible generosity and instrumental leadership solidify Loras as a top-tier Catholic institution committed to investing in our students' education and vocation.

Loras is grateful to Mike, Geri, Paul, Fran, and all those who supported the *Rooted in Legacy, Rising Together* campaign. The successful completion of this initiative allowed the College to reduce bank debt, provide additional student aid, offer greater hands-on learning for students in and out of the classroom, and create a learning and living environment that fosters a faith-filled, vibrant community.

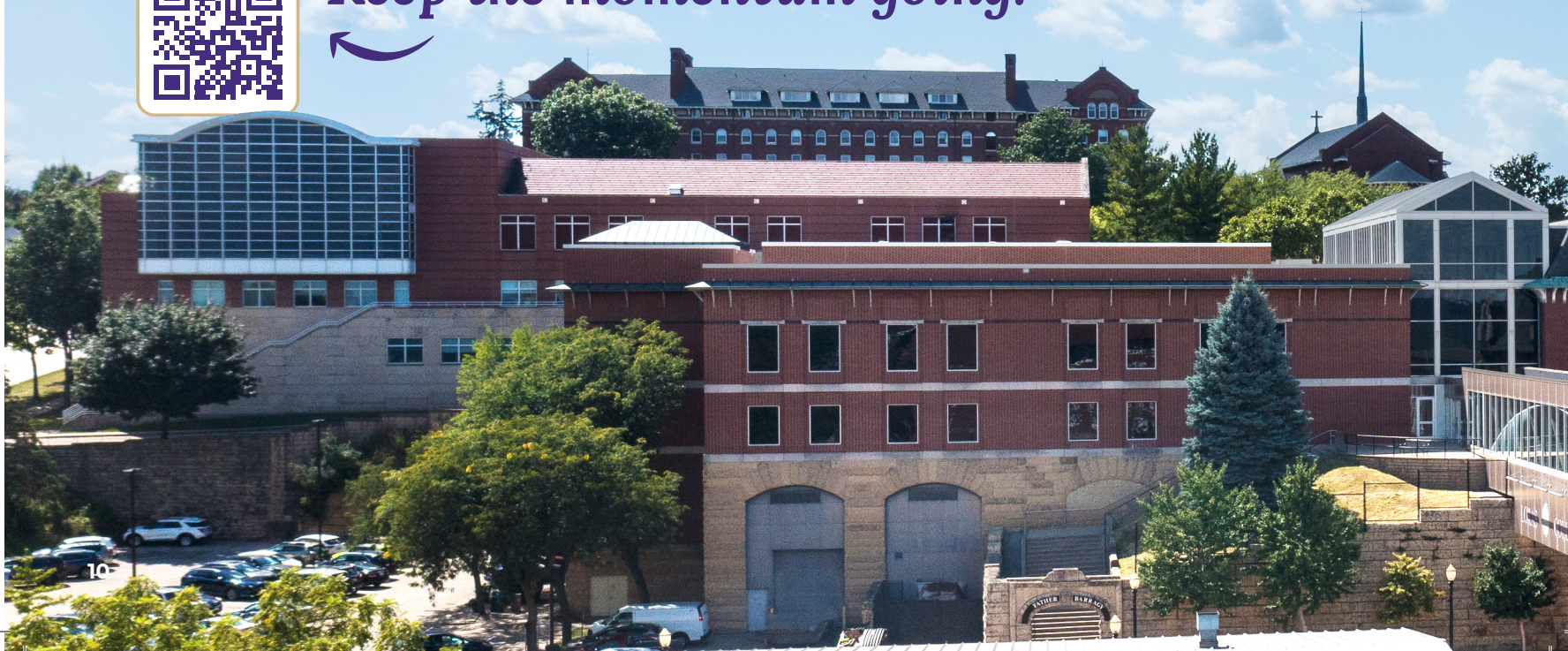
Loras College will continue to be anchored in Christ and guided by the Holy Spirit while rising together to meet the needs of today's students and tomorrow's world.

THANK YOU

*for being part of this momentous year
and for believing in Loras College!*



Keep the momentum going!





Father's Vu-Point

In my first year as Vice President for Catholic Identity, Mission, and Vocation, I have sought to serve while learning. Before stepping into this role, I made it a priority to be visible at campus events, supporting our students, faculty, and staff. In this new capacity, I have continued that presence while deepening relationships with faculty and staff by creating more opportunities for conversation about Catholic identity and Church teaching. Serving in this role has given me a clearer understanding of the College's inner workings and has helped ensure that a faith-centered perspective informs high-level decisions. From onboarding new colleagues, to meeting prospective hires, I am grateful for the opportunity to share who we are as a diocesan Catholic college and to invite others into that mission.

I have been especially encouraged by the vibrancy of our campus faith life this year. Mass attendance has grown significantly, and it is meaningful

to see many non-Catholic students at Sunday Mass. Their presence reflects a welcoming community and points to a broader desire among young people for something deeper and more spiritual. Participation in Antioch retreats, TREC trips, Bible studies, and informal gatherings in Campus Ministry shows that students are seeking connection, purpose, and faith. These experiences help our students understand the broader, beautiful "umbrella" of the Catholic faith through Holy Scripture,

sacraments, and worship. My hope is simple: that every student will grow in their faith and have an encounter with Christ while they are here.

I entered the role knowing I had much to absorb, and that mindset has grounded me in humility and collaboration. Leaning on colleagues across campus has been essential. I have learned that my colleagues and I rely on the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in our work. Our students and our school need your prayers—please be assured of ours for you!



Quiet Strength. Lasting Faith.

A model of quiet strength, faith, and service, St. Joseph, patron saint of Loras College, reminds us that leadership often happens through humility and care for others. St. Joseph lived a vocation of faithful presence-listening for God's will, trusting in divine providence, and loving with a self-giving heart. He shows us that holiness is found in daily "yeses" to God's call.

May we, like St. Joseph, be courageous in obedience, gentle in love, and steadfast in serving Christ in others.

* This image of St. Joseph is located in the stained glass in Christ the King Chapel.

A Faith Made New

On Sunday, April 12, we celebrated our Duhawks **Maya Pierce** ('27) and **Nate Edmonds** ('29) who received the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion) through The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

RCIA is a meaningful journey of faith within the Catholic Church, marked by education, prayer, and sacred rituals. Beginning in September, participants enter a period of learning and reflection that deepens during the Lenten season through rites focused on self-examination and repentance.

This spiritual journey reaches its culmination at the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, when individuals receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The liturgy begins with the *Lucernarium*, a powerful service of light that includes the blessing of the new fire and the Paschal candle—symbolizing Jesus Christ as the Light of the World.



SYMBOLISM

WHITE ROBE After Baptism, the newly baptized are clothed in a white garment as a sign that they have been cleansed of sin and are called to walk forward in a new life in Christ.

CANDLE A small candle is lit from the Easter candle and given to the newly baptized as a sign of the light of Christ. It serves as a reminder to always walk as children of the light and to share Christ's light with the world.

SACRED CHRISM The Sacred Chrism, or holy oil, is a sign of the gift of the Holy Spirit given to the newly baptized. It also symbolizes the connection between Jesus' mission and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



PATHWAY TO PARTICIPATION

DEEPENING VOCATION AT LORAS COLLEGE

During the 2023-2025 academic years, Loras College received a grant from the Network for Vocation in Undergraduate Education (NetVUE) to offer a vocational initiative, *Pathway to Participation*, designed to foster a campus-wide culture of vocation. Through workshops, guest speakers, and intentional opportunities for reflection, faculty and staff explored how to integrate vocational exploration into their spheres of influence.

Utilizing key documents such as the College's mission and its leadership framework, as well as topics such as advising, community, and personal vocation, employees gained greater fluency in vocational scholarship and practical tools that extend into the classroom, campus conversations, and co-curricular experiences. The goal was to cultivate a community that not only understands vocation but lives it: equipping educators to guide students toward lifelong purpose, meaningful self-reflection, and engaged citizenship. Participants also benefited from building community and connection with peers across the institution.

The grant was met with tremendous success with over 80 faculty and staff participating in workshops and guest speakers during the two years. One participant stated, "Professionally, Pathway has given me tools to navigate my career with more confidence, but personally, it has given me a stronger sense of belonging. It has reminded me that success isn't just about skills and achievements—it's about relationships, continuous learning, and embracing the journey alongside others. I'm grateful for the connections I've made and the insights I've gained, and I know they will

continue to shape my path moving forward."

Loras College understands vocation as deeply rooted in self-awareness, intentionality, and human dignity, calling individuals to build meaningful connections, take responsibility for others, and live in solidarity with neighbors. As a diocesan college, Loras draws its identity from the community it serves, embracing a mission grounded in place, purpose, and service.

The grant team recently presented on this transformative program at the national NetVUE conference in Kansas City. Going forward, members of the vocation task force are planning to build on this foundation to embed vocational exploration into the four-year student experience.

"The pathway experience has been so much more than professional development. It has deepened by connection to campus and my colleagues in a meaningful way. Through this series, I have had the chance to engage with others in a space that fosters growth, reflection and shared experiences. The conversations, mentorship, and support have reinforced the power of community and the value of learning from those around me."

Quotes were submitted anonymously.

TURNING PURPOSE

Hear how four alumni are rising and answering their calling



Faith in Action

Pope Leo XIV has bestowed the title of "monsignor" on Father **Michael J.K. Fuller** ('89), general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, with the distinction of "Chaplain to His Holiness".

Msgr. Fuller, a priest of the Diocese of Rockford, has served the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops for the past decade in a range of leadership roles. He began in 2016 as head of the Secretariat for Doctrine and Canonical Affairs and, since 2021, has continued his work within the General Secretariat.

Msgr. Fuller grew up in Algonquin, Illinois and attended Marian Central Catholic High School. When deciding on schools, he knew he wanted a Catholic college that was small enough to get involved in many opportunities and experiences

but also not too small that those experiences would be limited. He recognized that Loras had a great reputation and had both the sciences and liberal arts programs that he was also looking for. He also knew several graduates who praised the school as well, making Loras his first choice.

"My time at Loras introduced me to new ways of thinking, to new ideas; and saying yes to the many opportunities Loras had to offer. It was at Loras where teachers and friends alike showed me that the most joy comes from serving others. That charity, in the Christian sense of loving God and neighbor, is what gives meaning to a person's life. The education I received from Loras was truly a liberal arts education, one that opened the world to me," said Msgr. Fuller.



The Gross Family (L to R) Megan, Debbie, Terry, and Kate



Carrying His Light

Kate (Gross) Lange ('08, M.A. '23) is helping families navigate grief and loss through her children's book *Just Follow My Light*. Before his passing in 2024, her father, **Terry Gross** † ('75), asked her to write the eulogy for his funeral—an experience that would later inspire her work.

In the eulogy, Lange depicted her father as a firefly. The book follows Papa Firefly and his five "grandflies" as they embark on a nighttime adventure through the forest. When the grandflies return home, they look for Papa but can't find him anywhere. They worry his light has gone out, but then they notice their own lights are glowing more brightly and realize their grandfather gave them his light as a parting gift.

"Whenever you miss Papa, you just look at your light, and that's where you'll find him," the oldest grandfly tells the others.

Lange currently serves as a school counselor at Carver Elementary School and previously spent fifteen years teaching in Dubuque. Her path in education follows the example set by her father who dedicated forty-three years to teaching, concluding his career as a sixth-grade language arts teacher at Eleanor Roosevelt Middle School from 2005 to 2018.

Terry and his wife, **Debbie Gross** (M.A. '08), built lives centered on service, mentoring, and supporting generations of Duhawks. Debbie served at Loras College for twenty-five years as Faith Development Coordinator in Spiritual Life. Continuing the family's commitment to education, **Megan (Gross) Berns** ('13) now carries that legacy forward as a kindergarten teacher.

Just Follow My Light is a children's book written for families who are grieving, celebrating, or seeking connection to loved ones who have gone before them. Through illustrations and a gentle, reassuring message, the story offers comfort and hope-reminding readers that those we love never truly leave us when we carry them in our hearts and continue to share their light.

INTO ACTION



Precision Under Pressure

The **Coach Bob Bierie** ('65) Lecture Series is designed to honor the legacy of Coach Bierie by bringing distinguished speakers to Loras College who will address topics at the intersection of health care, sports, and leadership. Through these lectures, students, alumni, and the broader community will gain knowledge, insight, inspiration, and practical tools to lead and practice with integrity, perseverance, and vision; both on and off the field.

Dr. Peter J.L. Jebson ('86) joined us on Thursday, March 5 as the Inaugural speaker. During his lecture, he shared his experience as a Clinician and Health Care Executive, Motivational Leader, and Innovator. In his talk, entitled "The Role of the Orthopedic Consultant in Caring for Elite Intercollegiate and Professional Athletes", Dr. Jebson discussed the personal, professional, clinical, and ethical challenges of the orthopedic consultant in managing elite athletes (professional, collegiate) with hand/wrist injuries.

Dr. Jebson is a nationally renowned orthopedic surgeon specializing in hand, wrist, elbow, and microsurgery. He has published over 100 peer reviewed articles in prominent medical journals. He has authored and/or edited four books, authored forty-five book chapters, given over 240 national presentations, and served as Course Chairman at several international meetings for the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons (AAOS), American Society for Surgery of the Hand (ASSH), and American Association for Hand Surgery (AAHS).



The Power of the Question

Our spring Loras Engagement and Discussion Series (LEADS) lecture featured **Lauren (Squires) Ready** ('08), as she presented "The Power of the Question: Curiosity, Story, and Lifelong Learning".

In this engaging and story-driven talk, Lauren, an Emmy-winning filmmaker, bestselling author of *Ask Like a Leader*, and founder of Forever Ready Productions, explored how curiosity and asking the right questions can shape the way we learn, lead, and connect with others. Drawing on her journey from a Loras College student to award-winning journalist, documentary storyteller, and entrepreneur, she shared powerful moments when a single question changed the course of a story, and even her own life.

Before launching her company, Lauren spent nearly a decade as a television journalist covering stories across the Midwest and Memphis. Through her writing and storytelling, she helps leaders and organizations use thoughtful questions to spark innovation, build trust, and drive meaningful change.

She has been honored as the Memphis Business Journal's Small Business of the Year, a Super Woman in Business, a Top 40 Under 40 leader, and in 2018 was honored with the Loras College Young Alumni Award. In 2024, she was named a Just Society Awards Finalist by Evident Change for her contributions to criminal justice reform through storytelling.



WINTER AND SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

FIRST ROUND
NCAA Division III Tournament

COACH MARTIN
100th conference win

GAVIN SARVIS ('26)
Runner-up - 2026 State Farm
Dark Horse Dunker Competition

ALL-CONFERENCE TEAM

JACK HAYNES ('26)
GAVIN SARVIS ('26)
NOLAN BERENDES ('27)
DAMYEN JACKSON ('29)

MEN'S WRESTLING

EIGHTH PLACE AS TEAM
SEVEN NATIONAL QUALIFIERS

ALL-AMERICAN HONORS
DUSTIN BOHREN ('26) **174 LBS.**
Third place NCAA Championships

JONAH CLARK ('27) **HEAVYWEIGHT**
Third place NCAA Championships

ERIC KINKAID ('26) **157 LBS.**
Fifth place NCAA Championships

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

DYLAN ROSS ('18) **HEAD COACH**
100th win - sixth season as head coach
Named 2026 AVCA Thirty Under 30 Class

TRACK & FIELD

CAITLYN COX ('26)
First Team All-American honors
National Champion in weighted throw
• Lifetime-best mark of 21.00 meters, setting
a new Loras program record
• Shattering both the meet record and the
Division III record (previously held for
twenty years)

KEELEE LEITZEN ('29)
Two-time First Team All-American
800-meter run (2:10.33)
4x400-meter relay team

ISAAC BOURNE ('26)
First Team All-American
5,000-meter run, finishing 5th with a time
of (14:11.72)

WOMEN'S 4X400-METER RELAY TEAM
First Team All-American honors (3:48.25)

KATIE FLYNN ('29)
KEELEE LEITZEN ('29)
LAYLA HUGHES ('27)
ROSIE FLYNN ('29)

MEN'S 4X400-METER RELAY TEAM
First Team All-American honors (3:16.61)
Seventh overall

IAN FAGAN ('27)
ZEKE IRVING ('28)
CASEY TATH ('28)
MATT KRUSE ('26)

MEN'S GOLF

NICHOLAS SULLIVAN ('29)
Rookie of the Year

SOFTBALL

National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA)
All-Region honors

KAILI HENNING ('28)
All-Region honors, American Rivers Conference
(A-R-C) Pitcher of the Year

KIYA STEGER ('28)
All-Region honors

ELLIE BAKER ('29)
All-Region honors

NATIONAL CHAMPION

*CAITLYN COX CELEBRATES AT INDOOR TRACK & FIELD NATIONALS
AFTER PLACING FIRST IN THE WEIGHTED THROW.*



NEW ENERGY, SHARED PURPOSE.

Loras Athletics is entering an exciting new chapter with the addition of four accomplished head coaches whose championship experience, leadership, and commitment to student-athlete success will strengthen our programs for years to come.

"We are excited to welcome these outstanding coaches to the Loras family," said Director of Athletics **Denise Udelhofen** ('90). "Each brings a passion for developing student-athletes, fostering excellence, and advancing the traditions that define Loras Athletics. Their leadership, vision, and commitment to our mission make them tremendous additions to our community."



BRANDON NOVAK HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

Brandon Novak arrives at Loras after twenty-six years as an assistant coach at Saint John's University, one of NCAA Division III's premier football programs. During his tenure, the Johnnies earned 245 victories, thirteen conference championships, ten NCAA Tournament appearances, and produced sixty-eight All-

Americans and twenty-four Academic All-Americans.

Focused on developing student-athletes both on and off the field, Novak is eager to build upon the strong culture already established within Duhawk football.



LOGAN STROMAN HEAD CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK AND FIELD COACH

A former NCAA DI All-American at the University of Minnesota and most recently an assistant coach at Coe College, Logan Stroman brings elite

competitive and coaching experience to Loras after being a member of four Big Ten championship teams himself. After the 2025-2026 Indoor and Outdoor Track and Field seasons, Stroman showed his commitment to excellence on and off the track.



STEVE REILLY HEAD MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF COACH

Steve Reilly brings more than 20 years of professional golf experience to Loras, along with extensive expertise in teaching and player development. Prior to joining the Duhawks, Reilly served as the head golf professional at Sunnyside

Country Club in Waterloo, Iowa. Throughout his career, he has helped golfers of all skill levels reach their full potential, and he has already made an immediate impact at Loras, helping guide **Nicholas Sullivan** ('29) to the American Rivers Conference Rookie of the Year honor in their first season together.



NICK RIZZO HEAD MEN'S SOCCER COACH

Nick Rizzo ('10) returns to the College with a championship pedigree and a passion for the Duhawk tradition. A four-year standout for Loras from 2006-09, he helped the

program capture four consecutive conference titles while advancing to the NCAA Sweet 16 and two Final Fours. Most recently, Rizzo spent five seasons leading Saint Mary's University of Minnesota Women's Soccer, guiding the Cardinals to four MIAC Tournament appearances and earning 2024 MIAC Coach of the Year honors.

SCAN FOR THE LATEST DUHAWK ATHLETIC NEWS



SOFTBALL A SEASON TO REMEMBER

Loras College made program history this season with its first-ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament, advancing all the way to the NCAA Regional Final before falling to Trine University, the reigning national champion, in the regional championship game.

Under the leadership of Head Coach Ashley Winter, the Duhawks finished the season with an impressive 31-16 record. Offensively, the team posted a .320 batting average, while the pitching staff recorded a stellar 2.45 ERA across 279.2 innings in the circle.





Legacy Ball CELEBRATES COMMUNITY

Loras College welcomed alumni and friends to campus on Friday, May 8, for the annual Legacy Ball—an evening celebrating generosity, community, and a historic year of philanthropic impact.

Thanks to the incredible support of attendees and donors, the event raised more than \$300,000 to support student scholarships and help make a Loras education possible for future Duhawks.



ALTA VISTA NETWORK

Members of the Alta Vista Network

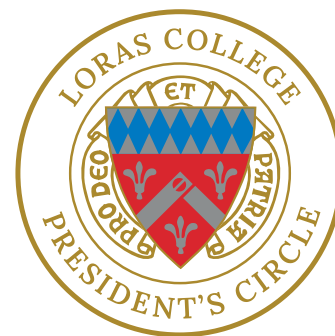
Alumni now have the opportunity to join a growing professional network created and led by **Vince Mazza** ('91). Launched in May 2025, the Alta Vista Network (AVN) is quickly expanding into a national business community focused on connecting high-performing leaders, strengthening relationships built on trust, and helping professionals advance in their careers.

AVN was founded with a clear vision centered on service, connection, and shared success. Its members embrace a philosophy inspired by motivational speaker Zig Ziglar: "You can get anything you want in life by helping others get what they want."

At its core, the network reflects the mission of *The Loras Way*—an approach grounded in selflessness, relationship-building, and creating meaningful impact for others. AVN encourages members to support one another's growth, foster mutually beneficial partnerships, and contribute to a stronger community while pursuing their own success. Proceeds generated through the network directly support the business program at Loras College and help create employment opportunities for graduates.

With the assistance of **Dan Tropp** ('99) and **Michael Burnett** ('14), the AVN hosts regular meetings and events throughout the year, including an upcoming gathering at Wrigley Field in August. These events provide members with opportunities to showcase their companies, share ideas, highlight products and services, and discuss new business ventures.

If you're interested in learning more about AVN, potentially becoming a member or attending an event, please email Michael Burnett at Michael.Burnett@loras.edu. Scan the QR or visit our LinkedIn group to learn more.



President's Circle

The President's Circle is a special group of committed leaders who champion Loras College in the Dubuque area and beyond. Together, they serve as visible and vocal supporters of the College, expanding our network of advocates, donors, and community leaders. Members play an important role through active participation attending annual gatherings, serving as enthusiastic advocates for Loras, and encouraging others to join. To learn more, visit: loras.edu/presidents-circle

DUHAWK SIGHTINGS • DUHAWK SIGHTINGS • DUHAWK SIGHTINGS • DUHAWK SIGHTINGS



DUHAWK DAY RECAP

The fourteenth annual Duhawk Day celebrated, united, and supported with 2,028 donors, raising over \$750,000—a new record in total dollars raised! The Loras community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents and friends joined together to support current and future students, while turning the country purple and gold.

PRESIDENTIAL WELCOME EVENTS

President **Mike** ('91) and **Martha Doyle** traveled the country to meet with alumni and friends, sharing the bold plans and exciting opportunities for Loras and our students. It was a great year to celebrate with Duhawks!



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