Loras Link: August 2011

In the Giving Spirit

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John Gavin, a 1965 graduate of Loras, served on the Loras Board of Regents from August 1989 to June 1998 and has continued his affiliation with Loras College as a Regent Emeritus. Charlotte graduated from the Mercy School of Nursing in Dubuque and is a registered nurse. The Gavins, along with their six children, four of whom also attended Loras, have been active in their parish, St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, as well as in the Iowa City community.

Through the years, the Gavins have supported the Loras Network of Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, the Loras College All-Sports Camp, the Loras College Summer Academy by providing scholarships. These programs give students a taste of the many opportunities Loras offers, through both academic and athletic experiences.

When asked why he wanted to make this contribution for Loras students, Gavin said it was because of his dedication to Catholic Education, and as a way to give back to his alma mater. Gavin says "I owe a lot to Loras; the College was very good to me. I wanted to be able to give a gift that retains students in Iowa, and to return the support that I received from the school as a student."

Chuck Pauler attended Loras for two years before transferring to Notre Dame as part of a 2-3 year engineering program. He received a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering in 1952. When asked why he made such a generous provision in his estate plans for Loras, Mr. Pauler’s widow Joan Pauler said, "Chuck loved the things Loras was doing and the ways they were doing it."

Pauler retired from his position as engineering director of dishwasher technology for Whirlpool Corp. after a career of 36 years in 1992. He has several patents for vacuum cleaner and dishwasher designs, and he served on several national and international appliance engineering committees.
Distinctively Loras

Which colleges are the best places to learn, grow, and succeed? Of course count Loras College in that group! Loras College was one of only 20 Catholic colleges and universities designated as a 2010-2011 College of Distinction. Colleges included on the list were recognized because of their success in four designated areas:

- Engaged Students
- Great Teaching
- Vibrant Communities
- Successful Outcomes

Colleges of Distinction are chosen by the educational quality and outcomes based on the answers to this important question, “Which colleges are the best places to learn, to grow, and to succeed?”

Loras College President Jim Collins said upon learning about the distinction, “the students, faculty, and staff on campus are exemplary. With more than 220 Catholic colleges in this country, to be recognized as one of the twenty Catholic Colleges of Distinction is a great honor. Thanks to a dedicated campus community, Loras is indeed among the best places to learn, grow and succeed.”

In visiting the Colleges of Distinction website, http://collegesofdistinction.com, you can select Loras and see the way in which it succeeds in the four areas of focus, and familiarize yourself with facts about Loras, the admission and financial aid processes, and ways to contact the school.

The goal of Colleges of Distinction, as noted on the Colleges of Distinction website, is to “provide students, counselors, and parents with information about schools that excel in key areas. We provide information about schools that take a holistic approach to admissions decisions and consistently excel in providing undergraduate education, and that have a truly national reputation.”
Loras Board of Regents Chair Honored

In the last Loras Link, we updated you on the leadership changes within Loras College’s Board of Regents. Honoring that change, the Loras College Board of Regents surprised Chairman Thomas J. Tauke (’72) by announcing the establishment of an endowed scholarship in his name. The board provided personal donations totaling $125,000, recognizing Chairman Tauke’s successful and unprecedented term of seven years.

Tom Tauke had a long history as a part of the Loras Board of Regents. He was elected in 1998 and began serving as Board Chair shortly after Jim Collins began his presidency in June 2004.

During Tauke’s leadership capital improvements included: Construction of the Athletic and Wellness Center and bridge and renovations to the Rock Bowl Stadium, Graber Center, Grotto and Campus Dining Room, summing over $25,000,000 of campus facility improvements! Additionally, the College’s largest contribution ever - $15,000,000 - was received. Generously donated from Paul and Fran Breitbach for the endowment, the Breitbach gift helped to establish the very distinctive and successful Catholic Thinkers and Leaders program.

Possibly the strongest evidence of institution-wide success under Tauke’s Board Chairmanship was the successful outcome from the Higher Learning Commission accreditation, a rigorous review and visit in November 2009, and the ultimate granting of maximal accreditation of ten years in the final report issued in April 2010.

The Higher Learning Commission commended Loras for its significant institutional improvement since the 2000 accreditation visit. Most notably:

- Strong advancement in ensuring academic rigor with a focus on learning assessment and graduation outcomes. Loras has consistently outperformed peers in graduation rates, active learning, ethical thinking and writing as evidenced by US News and World Report and the National Survey of Student Engagement
- Outstanding support for mission, a cohesive sense of a campus community and pervasive evidence of Catholic identity. Illustrations include Loras’ feature on Eye on America as one of America’s Hidden Treasures and Papal recognition of Loras students during a study abroad to Rome.
- Extraordinary success in service to community and co-curricular programs. Examples for service include: being cited in the President’s Honor Roll for Service with Distinction and rating 13th in the country among all baccalaureate colleges for its commitment to enrolling first-generation students and community service by Washington Monthly. In the co-curricular area, the accolades are numerous and include national rankings in: Mock Trial, Mediation, Intercollegiate Athletics, Sports Management, Media Studies and Engineering.

A 1972 Loras graduate, Tom Tauke serves as executive vice president of Public Affairs, Policy and Communications for Verizon, Inc. In addition to serving on the Loras board, Tauke is a board member for the US Chamber of Commerce, JOA and the U.S. Telecom. Prior to moving to Washington, DC, Tauke served for 13 years as Congressman for Iowa’s Second District.
Young Alumni Get Involved

By: Megan Stralow ('09)

When you walk across the graduation stage with diploma in hand and feeling anxious to step into the working world, Loras College leaves you with the motto, “Once a Duhawk, Always a Duhawk.” But what does that motto mean in post-graduate life? How can you still stay connected to the community that was your home for four amazing years?

A great way to stay involved with the Loras community is to be active in the Young Alumni Advisory Board. Being involved with the board allows you the opportunity to interact with other alumni in the area whether you are in Dubuque or other neighboring communities, such as Cedar Rapids/Iowa City, Chicago, Rockford, Milwaukee, Cedar Falls/Waterloo, Des Moines, and beyond. The goal of the board is to work collaboratively to plan events that keep young alumni engaged as well as give young alumni the opportunity to lend their time and talents to current students.

I was very involved as a student at Loras during my four years in both academic and extra-curricular activities. Being an involved student allowed me to make connections with students, faculty, staff and community leaders, as well as help mold me into the person I am today. I am extremely grateful for my Loras experience, but after I graduated, I felt like a piece of me was missing. I missed being involved and being in the loop with what was happening on campus. I wanted to give back to the place that provided me with a great education, wonderful memories, and life-long friendships.

When Assistant Alumni Director, Liz (Elsbernd) Kruse ('08), contacted me about forming a Young Alumni Advisory Board, I jumped at the opportunity to participate. This was my chance to stay involved as an alumna! Since getting involved with the board last year, I have been able to stay informed with what is happening on campus, meet new alumni in the area and brainstorm events that would be enticing to keep young alumni involved and engaged with the Loras community.

In addition to working with young alumni, the board also provides you the opportunity to interact with current students who are a part of the Loras Student Alumni Council. These students keep us up-to-date with the campus pulse and how we, as alumni, can network with students as well as how we can support the initiatives of the college.

As a member of the Young Alumni Advisory Board, I have attended a progressive dinner on campus as well as helped organize and serve a meal at the Hope House, a happy hour and trivia night. These events have been a great way for me to stay connected to campus.

So for those of you looking to stay connected with Loras, I encourage you to get involved with the Young Alumni Advisory Board. It will be a great way for you to be an active member of the alumni community and to be a part of the decision-making process to make the alumni experience vibrant and engaging. Just remember, the motto, “Once a Duhawk, Always a Duhawk.” What does that motto mean to you?
Iowa Private College Week Aug 1st -Aug 5th

Do you know any high school juniors and seniors? If so, encourage them to visit Loras College during Iowa Private College Week, August 1 through August 5. Students and their families are invited to tour campus, learn about academic areas and student activities, and attend an informational financial aid session. Visits to Loras’ campus can be requested at two different times throughout the week, one beginning at 9 a.m. and the other at 1 p.m.

Loras College joins fellow private colleges across the state for Iowa Private College Week (IPCW). Sponsored by the Iowa Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (IAICU), the week provides prospective students and their families an opportunity to visit 28 private college campuses.

As someone close to Loras, you know that Iowa private institutions are enriched communities offering both challenging and rewarding learning opportunities. Private colleges, such as Loras, meet the priorities and goals of students by providing a hands-on, intellectually challenging learning environment as a means to creating independent, well-educated leaders and critical thinkers. With small class sizes and low faculty to student ratios, students get the personal attention they deserve at a reasonable price, as 97 percent of Loras students receive financial aid.

Prospective students participating in IPCW will receive a passport to record the campuses they visit throughout the week. Three campus visits allow students to apply to any of the 28 Iowa private colleges without paying application fees.

For more information about visiting Loras College, go to [http://www.loras.edu/visit](http://www.loras.edu/visit) or contact us at admissions@loras.edu, (563) 588-7236, 800-245-6727.
Returning to Campus

Sooner than we know, campus will begin buzzing with student athletes. The football team arrives on campus August 13th, with the other teams – Soccer, Volleyball, Cross Country, Tennis and Golf – filtering onto campus over the weeks that follow. Mark your calendars and join our athletes as they kick off, tee off, or spike off (you get the point) the 2011-2012 school year and athletic seasons!

The first match ups for each team are as follows:

- Men's and Women's Soccer - August 27th
- Women's Tennis - September 3rd
- Men's Golf - September 6th
- Football - September 10th
- Cross Country - September 14th
- Volleyball - September 16th
- Women's Golf - September 24th

Visit [www.duhawks.com](http://www.duhawks.com) for the complete athletic schedules!
Weddings at Christ the King Chapel

Summers bring warm temperatures, fragrant flowers and of course, weddings! Did you know that Christ the King Chapel at Loras hosts weddings held on campus, and that they are guided through the Office of Spiritual Life? Over the last few years, about half a dozen wedding have been celebrated each year at Christ the King. If you are considering getting married at Loras, outlined below is some information important to consider:

Who
As leaders of the Catholic faith community for Loras College, the Office of Spiritual Life at Loras will respect the wedding requests of the following, provided they fulfill the marriage preparation requirements, and the Chapel and presider are available:

a. current full-time Loras students,
b. Loras graduates,
c. Loras faculty and staff, and their immediate family members

It is the policy of the Office of Spiritual Life at Loras that persons who are not current students or otherwise affiliated with Loras College seek marriage in their home parish or one where they are registered and active.

When
Providing all other requirements are met, all requests will be handled according to the availability of the presider and the calendar of Christ the King Chapel. Please be aware of these guidelines regarding special seasons and dates:

1. It is the Archdiocese of Dubuque policy not to allow weddings to take place on Saturdays after 2:00 p.m. Therefore, weddings will be celebrated in Christ the King Chapel on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings and Saturday afternoons no later than 2:00 p.m.

2. Loras College does not ordinarily schedule weddings when the College is not in session, nor are they scheduled from the Fourth Sunday of Advent until the weekend following New Year’s Day. In addition, no weddings are scheduled for the weekend of Holy Week; and those planning weddings during the Lenten season are asked to respect the spirit of the season, which is one of simplicity and subdued celebration. Check with the priest regarding liturgical seasons.

For more detailed information about getting married at Loras, please contact the Office of Spiritual Life at 563-588-7108. Congratulations to all those who were recently married at Christ the King Chapel!

The “great mystery,” which is the Church and humanity in Christ, does not exist apart from the “great mystery” expressed in the “one flesh”…reality of marriage and the family. -Pope John Paul II