DEAR ALUMNI and FRIENDS:

When I graduated from Loras in 1984 with a B.A. in Finance, I had every intention of going back to Chicago and pursuing banking. On a return visit to campus that summer, I fortuitously bumped into Professor Frank Noonan. He asked me what I was doing, and I said, “Looking for a job.” He told me to go see Director of Admissions Dan Conry, which I did. Dan told me he had over 70 applications and that none fit the mark to “sell the **Loras Experience**.” He did say that he recalled my student involvement and, as long as President Di Pasquale approved, the job would be mine. Early the next week I met with Dr. Di Pasquale and, much to my surprise, I was offered the job. I was ecstatic, and thanks to these three good men, it started what has been 27 great years working for my alma mater.

As I write, Loras just finished celebrating its annual Homecoming weekend. The campus was filled with crowds of enthusiastic alumni, friends, parents and students. Repeatedly, and in sync with my own reflections, alumni told me of their deep love for Loras, the gratitude they had for their own experiences here and the profound impact Loras has made on their lives. At the height of all these remarks were the lifelong relationships Loras created for them and the foundation of faith that was further instilled in them.
Though grateful for, and reminiscent of, the *Loras Experience*, our alumni were overwhelmingly impressed by the marked improvements to our campus. From the new landscaping, to the construction and renovations on campus, alumni expressed satisfaction for the numerous changes. Further, alumni remarked about the beauty of our liturgies. They also commented about the talents and friendliness of our students, faculty and staff.

The *Loras Experience* has always been about the people. Of special note is the generosity of Loras people who have made the Loras Experience possible. On behalf of the entire Loras community, I offer my deepest gratitude to you for your belief in, and generous support of, Loras College.

I urge you to continue joining me, my colleagues, our alumni and friends in giving so that future generations of students will have the opportunity to receive the *Loras Experience* in the same ways that many of us have so richly benefitted.

May God bless you always!

James E. Collins, President ('84)
Chevy Commercial Competition

Over the past month, a few Loras Media Studies/IVA students produced commercials for three new Chevy vehicles for a Bird Chevrolet promotion. Bird will award the students involved in making the winning commercials with scholarships and the opportunity to produce the next Bird Chevrolet commercial. There will be a winner selected for each of the three categories…the Cruz, the Sonic, and the Equinox. Loras has commercials in each category. The winners are based solely on Facebook votes…so the commercial with the most "LIKES" in each category wins!

The videos are currently posted on the Bird Chevrolet Facebook page.

Voting will continue until January 1, 2012.
All Sports Camp Stocking Stuffer

Give the gift you know they'll love--a week (or two) of All-Sports Camp. Whether you have a new or returning camper, they are sure to enjoy this stocking stuffer! Next year will mark the 30th annual All-Sports Camp and it is shaping up to be the greatest summer ever! We've planned all sorts of amazing programs and activities to guarantee your camper the time of their life!

You can give your child the best Christmas gift ever by choosing to give them the gift of All-Sports Camp. Your camper's choice of week will be guaranteed upon receipt of a check for $150.00 (non-refundable deposit fee). You know your camper will love a week at Loras during the summer in 2012, and you'll love knowing that you've invested in a life-changing experience that they'll always remember.

2012 CAMP DATES
June 17-22 Session 1
June 24-29 Session 2
July 8-13 Session 3
July 15-20 Session 4

Save your spot today by clicking on http://www.loras.edu/sportscamp.
Loras College Presents Mysteries of Christmas

It was standing room only as the Loras College Community kicked off the Advent season with Loras College Choirs and Loras College Wind Ensemble performing a concert titled *Mysteries of Christmas* on Sun., Dec. 4, 2011. This concert was held at Christ the King Chapel.

From its inception as The Stations of Christmas in 2005, *Mysteries of Christmas* has sought to provide the community with a seasonal experience which presents the highest quality of music and literature in a concert format imbued with our Catholic culture. In keeping with our College's mission statement, *Mysteries of Christmas* provides all a joyous celebration as we welcome in the Season of Advent and wait with expectation for Christmas. Music and readings give the audience, musicians and lectors material to ponder the wonder and awe of God's gift to us – his son Jesus. We are called by each anthem, motet, reading and instrumental movement to revel in the celebration of the incarnation of Christ.

The initial presentation of *Mysteries of Christmas* was based on the traditional format of the King’s College, University of Oxford, Lessons and Carols. Loras College first used a publication titled, The Stations of Christmas as the starting point for a lessons and carols event which would reflect our Catholic heritage. In 2007, as the program grew, the community called for a focusing of the event. Many asked if it were a concert or a liturgy; Dr. Bruce Kotowich, director of Choral and Vocal Activities responded “yes, it is both.” This brought about the change of name to reflect the focusing of Advent and Christmas ideas and less of an association with the liturgy of Stations of the Cross.

The Loras College Choirs and Wind Ensemble will also be hosting *Sounds of the Season* on Sat., Dec. 10 at 3pm in the Athletic and Wellness Center. This wonderful concert will put listeners in the holiday mood as many familiar Christmas favorites will be performed. The performance is free and open to the public. After the concert, enjoy hot cocoa, cider and cookies compliments of the Loras Network of Dubuque.
Fall Sports Experience Success on Conference, National Levels

With the month of December upon us and the fall sports in the rear view mirror, many sources have released their post season awards and multiple teams reached the postseason.

Among the highlights of the fall season were the NCAA Division III Championships appearances by members of the cross country and soccer teams.

Making their second appearance as a team in the NCAA Division III Championships, the Loras College men's cross country team posted a 25th place finish at Lake Breeze Golf Club in Winneconne, Wisconsin on November 19.

Led by the lone senior in the lineup, Dan McDermott, the Duhawks posted seven lifetime PRs on their way to their top 25 finish. McDermott's time broke the 25 minute mark and was good enough to put him in sixth on Loras' all-time list – completing Saturday's course in 24:53.

"He should be proud of himself," head coach Bob Schultz said on Saturday night. "I know I am. He's been a great leader of this team."

McDermott was atop Loras' list throughout the 2011 season and he was pleased with the Duhawks' efforts in the championships.

"We had our best race at the meet that mattered the most," McDermott proclaimed Saturday. "I'm happy we all had PRs...we ran seven great races today, and I felt like I left it all on the course."

Schultz agreed.

"I thought we executed our race plan perfectly," said Schultz.

Inside the Rock Bowl, the Duhawks soccer programs once again shined in 2011. Loras hosted three Iowa Conference Tournament games and six NCAA Division III Championship games after earning the bid to host the opening two rounds of both the men's and women's tournaments.

The women's soccer team went 7-0-1 in the IIAC regular season to claim their share of the second straight title for the program. Loras went on to win the IIAC Tournament in the Rock Bowl and their first round game of the 2011 NCAA Division III Championships.

The Duhawks women's team went 12-0-1 at home until they were knocked out of the NCAA tournament in the second round and finished the season 18-3-1 overall.

The men's soccer team finished in second place in the Iowa Conference during the regular season and followed with their second consecutive IIAC Tournament championship, a 1-0 road win over Luther College.

The Duhawks finished 17-3-3 in 2011 and appeared in their seventh consecutive NCAA Division III Men's
soccer championships.

"I continue to be proud of what our programs have accomplished," head coach Dan Rothert said at the conclusion of the seasons.

"Our team chemistry and ability to put pressure on teams all over the field for the full 90 minutes once again helped us into the win column quite a bit," he added.

Additionally, Bob Schultz was voted the Iowa Conference Men's Cross Country Coach of the Year and Dan Rothert the same honor for women's soccer.

A total of 18 Duhawks made the Iowa Conference Fall All-Academic Team this semester and a total of 31 Duhawks earned All-IIAC honors in their respective sports. That list includes five cross country runners, 17 soccer players, two volleyball players, six football players and one golfer.

For additional stories, schedules, scores and NCAA standings click here.
Tis the Season to Give

As the year comes to a close, many of us reflect on the blessings of the past year, and look forward, with hope, to the year ahead. For college students, between finals and end of the semester assignments it can be hard to find time to focus on much more than the tasks at hand.

However, many students at Loras College break this trend, and as the semester ends, they look back with gratitude and thanksgiving to those generous alumni who have helped them along their way.

"Odds are, if it’s happening at Loras, or involves Loras students, the Loras Fund is somehow related to it," says Sandra Gonzales-Denham ’05, Director of Annual Giving.

The Loras Fund supports the Loras Experience by creating opportunities that help develop active learners, reflective thinkers, ethical decision makers, and responsible contributors. Contributions to the Loras Fund allow students to research alongside distinguished faculty, help others on service trips and attend leadership training. Donations also provide financial aid, technology in classrooms, instruments in laboratories and equipment for athletics.

"Receiving merit based aid was a huge factor in me choosing Loras College," senior Tim Kelly stated. "The Loras Fund helps make a Catholic, liberal arts education possible." He adds that from a student’s perspective, financial aid is the most important function of the Loras Fund.

By contributing to the Loras Fund you play a vital role in the lives of Loras students! Every gift makes a difference in their lives and helps maintain and strengthen the Loras College mission.

This season, we encourage you to give the gift of Loras with a gift to the Loras Fund. Your generosity and kindness will have a profound and lasting effect for years to come.
Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Written by Loras College student Juliana Lancheros Mantilla ('14)

We all once believed in the magic of Santa Claus. Each of us wanted our wishes to be fulfilled, so we wrote a list to Santa Claus that included everything we wanted for Christmas. This idea of Santa Claus is still alive and well, especially in the lives of many Chicago-land kids. Their special Santa Claus is Loras alum Tom Foley ('98).

Upon his graduation from Loras College in 1998, Tom and a few friends had the wonderful idea of creating a “Secret Santa,” program which, continues to grow each year. This program has become incredibly successful due to the support that the program coordinators receive from their relatives, friends and people who seemed moved by this beautiful cause.

Being a part of the “Secret Santa” program consists not only of money, but of actual gifts too. Participants are required to sponsor a child with at least a toy and a piece of clothing. Last year this event was a huge success benefiting 1,600 children from the Chicago area. There is evidence that this year will prove to be successful as well. It grows every year even more, not only with the number of children but also with the number of sponsors.

This alum is a great example of a service soul, who during his four years at Loras learned that after working hard the reward can be even bigger and better than expected. “The coordination takes a lot of time and volunteers, but every year when I see the smile on the kids’ faces, it’s always worth it!” This program is about bringing joy to those kids that are not as privileged as us, so that their Christmas spirit keeps being alive.

Tom not only helped start the program, he continues to help out in a more direct way by delivering the gifts, playing Santa at one or two of the schools. He states: “There is nothing that makes you feel more special than seeing the children’s’ Christmas wishes fulfilled as they open their gifts, or when they run up and give “Santa” a hug.”

- Juliana Lancheros Mantilla ('14)