Loras College offers grad a well-traveled education

More than 300 sun-dappled Loras College students received degrees on Saturday, May 19, 2012, Nicholas Gatterman, president of the class of 2012, "Fear not," he told his fellow graduates during his presidential address. "Loras has given us all that we need. Now do the work.

Morgan Murphy intends to do just that. "In a few weeks, the already seasoned world traveler will head to Mexico to begin work as a social studies teacher in Queretaro. With a triple major in international studies, history, and education, Murphy believes she is well-equipped for a career abroad."
Loras College offers grad a well-traveled education

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Triple major spends much time overseas -- in southern Africa and Taiwan -- while preparing to teach internationally.

The 173rd Loras College Commencement
Where: Rock Bowl Stadium Degrees conferred: 320 Undergraduate degrees; 17 Graduate degrees Speaker: Kevin White, Ph.D., vice president and director of athletics at Duke University, former Loras College director of athletics Valedictorians: The college does not have them

Memorable quote: "It has been a great winter in Durham, with the electricity of Krzyzewski-ville," said White, who called himself a "lifelong Duhawk." "But I can't tell you how excited I am to be back in Duhawk-ville. This place has its own magic."

In what Provost Cheryl Jacobsen called one of the warmest commencement ceremonies in memory, more than 300 sun-baked Loras College students received degrees Saturday.

Temperatures above 80 and a dearth of shade didn't deter Nicholas Satterlee, president of the class of 2012.
"Fear not," he told his fellow graduates during his presidential address. "Loras has given us all that we need. Seize the world."

Morgan Murphy intends to do just that. In a few weeks, the already seasoned world traveler will head to Mexico, to begin work as social-studies teacher in Queretaro. With a triple major in international studies, history and education, Murphy believes she is well-equipped for a career abroad.

"That's kind of the idea," Murphy said. "For at least the foreseeable future, I'd like to teach internationally." Murphy has traveled through much of southern Africa while at Loras, and recently wrapped up a semester of student-teaching at a boarding school in Taiwan. While she didn't rule out an eventual transition to domestic education, Murphy said that, for now, she wants to pursue the unique challenges presented by teaching in unfamiliar countries and cultures.

"You really try to stay true to the native country but at the same time advance (the students') education so they're ready to go to a university in the United States," she said. "That's a tough balance."

Murphy, a native of Bloomington, Minn., followed in her mother's footsteps by coming to Loras, something she said she never really planned on doing. But Loras proved to be the right fit, Murphy said, because the college presented so many opportunities to stretch her international legs.

"I've always had a very big interest in the international community," Murphy said. "Loras provided a lot of
opportunities to do that. That was really the thing that sparked my interest."

Murphy's time at Loras has been marked by personal, spiritual and educational growth, she said.

"I think the support that I have received in the Loras community has really helped me to flourish as an individual," she said. "This community has really supported and challenged me to be the best possible version of myself."

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24 Duhawks earn All-IIAC Academic Team honors this spring

The Iowa Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IIAC) recently released its list of 2012 spring student athletes who have qualified for the IIAC All-Academic Team. This season's list includes 24 Duhawks and 10 members of the Loras College Class of 2012. It is also a list comprised of many Duhawks who have made the list multiple times.

Below is the list of Duhawks who made the cut with a cumulative GPA above 3.5 and have been at Loras for at least one full year.

Complete IIAC Release/List HERE:

BASEBALL:
Clay Henricksen, BJ Juergens, Chris Rock

SOFTBALL:
Katelyn Jones, Lara Mangialardi, Niki Rivera, Leanne Szela

Men's TENNIS:
Justin Steines

Women's TRACK AND FIELD:
Katie Flogel, Caitlin Groeper, Maria Kalb, Rachel Kolbeck, Ashley Rouse, Cassie Thill, Meggen Elsen, Genna Kinley, Kelsey Kruse

Men's TRACK AND FIELD:
Austin Steil, Michael Bukszar, Hung Dao, Jerry Olp, Ryan Piche, Dan McDermott, Chris Miller
Homecoming 2012

A sea of purple and gold fills campus each year at Homecoming. Share your Loras pride and make plans to join us this fall on September 28-30. From alumni panel discussions and tailgate to awards and performances, you can join the hundreds of fellow Duhawks who return to Loras to celebrate this special place.


Main events this year include the All Alumni Homecoming Dinner on Saturday night honoring this year's Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, a reception for Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD), the annual Tailgate in the parking lot of the Athletic and Wellness Center, Liturgy in Christ the King Chapel and of course, the All Alumni Homecoming Brunch. All of these events and more are open for registration. Click here to reserve your spots now to join us for Homecoming 2012.

To see a full listing of this year’s events, click here. Start brushing up on the school fights song and join us this fall!

Hail Loras Varsity
Cheer them along the way
Onward to victory
We will win this game today
Let's hear a cheer for the varsity
Long may they reign supreme
Fight 'til the echoes ring
For the glory of the team.
Loras Students' Public Relations Project Creates an Impact

Loras College students taking the Public Relations case study course were assigned to create a grassroots campaign surrounding different recognized days. One group in particular, including seniors Megan Culligan (Orland Park, Ill.), Kelsey Hlavin (Rockford, Ill.), Jordan Stukenberg (Aplington, Iowa), and Christie Gees (Onalaska, Wis.) were tasked with International Women's Day.

As a group, they researched International Women's Day and discovered the Zahara Women Foundation in Nigeria. This organization works to end gender-based violence, provide a social and academic education for women and children, and improve the overall quality of life for women in Nigeria. The group reached out to this organization to learn more information, and the representative inspired them to make this campaign bigger than just an assignment for class. Faced with many obstacles during the process of creating the campaign, they decided on creating a video to express the College's support of the missions of International Women's Day and the Zahara Women Foundation. "Our video shows how attitudes and behaviors should be expressed towards women. It's hard for many Americans to understand the rights deficit that women in some places in the world have, especially in Nigeria, so we came up with a visual representation on how women should be treated to get the conversation started," explains Culligan. The video participants express how their organizations support these missions.

In one week, the video achieved over 500 views on YouTube, the ZWF Facebook page "likes" were increased by over 250, and $235 was raised for the organization. The video is still accumulating views. It is expected that the video will continue to accumulate views across the world. The current viewership countries are USA, Canada, Nigeria, Ireland, and Pakistan. "This campaign has developed into something way beyond our original plans and we couldn't be happier," expressed group member Hlavin.

With the donations received through the Loras student efforts, 4.5 schools which total over 10,000 children in Nigeria were supported. The organization specifically mentioned the Loras students' names on its Facebook page in thanking them for the video. Currently, Loras College's submission is featured on the organization's website. www.zaharawomen.com/how-you-can-help
Don Noel's Loras Legacy

While growing up at 1571 Henion Street in Dubuque, Don Noel Sr. (Academy ‘58) began a lifetime relationship with Loras College. With the campus as his backyard, Don used the hills to sleigh ride, toboggan and ski. With a large priest faculty on campus, serving Mass in St. Joseph's Chapel was part of his daily routine.

After graduating from Loras Academy in 1958, Don enlisted in the army and was deployed for a three-year assignment in Stuttgart, Germany. While there, he learned of the sale of his boyhood home to Loras College for the construction of Binz Hall. Inspired by a visit to Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto in France, Don pledged to pray the rosary daily in devotion to the Blessed Mother.

In 1965 Don proposed to Lois Rahe, a recent Mercy nursing graduate, in his beloved St. Joseph Chapel. Their first home after they married was at 1381 Belmont, a property later sold to Loras College and presently named the Belmont House. Like their father, Don's three sons took advantage of the adjacent Loras campus, using Keane Hill and Keane Field for many boyhood activities.

Lois was hired as the College Health Center Director in 1983, a position she held until retiring in 2007. Don, Lois and their sons participated in many of the educational, cultural, athletic and spiritual offerings of the College. At one event, while engaged in a conversation with Msgr. James Barta ('52), Don expressed disappointment at the lack of flowers and greenery at the Lourdes Grotto on campus. The President encouraged Don to volunteer to oversee the beautification of Mary's garden.

Don recruited his sister Helen McLaughlin; and, for years to come, Don and Helen, dedicated volunteers, worked from early spring to late fall to transform the Grotto into a beautiful respite for prayer and meditation for the Loras community and visitors to campus. Their brother John, Loras students, seminarians and other volunteers assisted with spring planting and special projects.

In the spring of 2008, Don was diagnosed with two terminal cancers. Although he could no longer volunteer at the Grotto, Don frequently visited there, praying his rosary while petitioning for Mary's intercession in the difficulties he faced. On January 19, 2010, with rosary in hand, Don passed away in his sleep. To honor Don's memory and in thanksgiving for years of good relations with Loras College, Lois, Don Jr. ('90), Tony ('93) and Bob ('99) have donated the kneelers gracing the entrance to the recently relocated Loras Grotto. They hope members of the Loras community and campus visitors will pause and reflect at Mary's feet.
Dr. Laddie Sula, Last Lecture

Dr. Laddie Sula was invited to give his last lecture at Loras College in May. He took the opportunity to paint a history of his time at Loras and to encourage current Loras students to tap into the wealth of knowledge available to them here.

Dr. Sula arrived at Loras College as a student in 1963, at a time when the college experience was far different from what it is today. He evolved with the school after returning to teach economics in 1969 after earning his graduate degree. He saw finals cancelled due to student protests during the Vietnam War; he saw the college become co-educational and allow female students. Dr. Sula taught Economics at Loras College from 1969 to 1972, and again from 1983 to 2012.

"Ironically, I began my teaching career teaching veterans of Vietnam and I am ending my career teaching veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan."

His last lecture brought some humor to the field of economics, high praise for his colleagues and students through the years, and some great advice to current students.

"We-students, faculty and staff alike-are surrounded with more sources of knowledge than we will ever be able to comprehend in our lifetime...Think about this knowledge. What percent of the world's population has the access to as much information as you do at Loras?

Given that the semester is nearly over, what can you ask one of your professors-other than the usual-"What's on the final?" How about asking them to recommend a book or a list of books to read this summer?

Just think about the ideas that you can engage and argue with your peers and professors about on campus this coming fall... or with your coworkers at the end of the day...

Each of you are at Loras College because someone encouraged you, mentored you. My colleagues and I are here because someone mentored us - to enter the profession we've chosen, to go to college and, perhaps even graduate school.

I encourage you in the next month to send a note to that teacher or that person that you believe was critical in supporting your initial decision to go on to college. If you continue on for a graduate or professional degree, send a note to those mentors that helped light the path to your professional career.

In his 33 years of teaching at Loras College, Dr. Sula has influenced and been influenced by many Loras students, faculty and staff.
Old Dubuque New Again

On May 18, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood came to Dubuque to cut the ribbon on the Dubuque Millwork District's Complete Streets project in the Historic Millwork District, downtown Dubuque. The project is a part of a multi-million dollar urban revitalization project that the City of Dubuque is undergoing to reclaim its urban core. Once a millwork area, the buildings in this district are being transformed into a residential housing, retail, and entertainment district, aiming to attract people to Dubuque or to encourage them to stay. Secretary La Hood made a special point to mention Loras College at the event and later in his blog, Fastlane, relating this historic achievement to the long-term benefits the project would have in encouraging the quality workforce turned out in Loras students to remain in Dubuque following graduation.

Fastlane Blog