Man of Deeds
The premier showing of the documentary, 'Man of Deeds: Bishop Matthias Loras and the Iowa Frontier,' took place on May 26 and was enjoyed by a crowd of more than 350 people. This documentary was produced through award-winning Loras College Productions housed at Loras College.

The documentary showcased a thorough and moving representation of the life of this important figure in the history of Dubuque and Eastern Iowa.
Man of Deeds: Bishop Mathias Loras and the Iowa Frontier

The documentary film, *Man of Deeds: Bishop Mathias Loras and the Iowa Frontier*, premiered on May 25 to an overflow crowd of more than 350 people. This film was produced by the award-winning Loras College Productions housed at Loras College.

The documentary showcased a thorough and moving representation of the life of this important figure in the history of Dubuque and Eastern Iowa. After the premier there was a short panel discussion featuring Craig Schaefer, Director, Ted Rosean, Producer, Robert Klein (editor of *Foundations*), Rev. Loras Otting (editor of *Letters to a Frontier Bishop*), Dr. Amy Lorenz (editor *Man of Deeds* biography), and Michael Gibson (Director, Center for Dubuque History).

This film was shot on location in France, Alabama, Louisiana, Southwest Wisconsin, and throughout Iowa. While shooting in France, Rosean and Schaefer stayed with members of the Loras family. The documentary took over two years to produce and examines the enduring legacy of Mathias Loras, the first bishop of the diocese of Dubuque.

Born into the conflict of the French Revolution, Loras became a missionary priest and first Catholic bishop of the vast Iowa Territory in 1837. He arrived in Dubuque by steamboat in 1839, and the educated and refined Frenchman had to adjust to the rough-and-tumble community in which he was placed. Loras subsequently went about building the foundations of the Catholic church in Iowa.

The film is based on the biography *Man of Deeds* by Dr. Thomas E. Auge, the manuscript of which was written years ago and lay in the Center for Dubuque History Archives until it was edited by Dr. Amy Lorenz and subsequently published.

When asked about the documentary, Schaefer said "Documentary filmmaking takes time, but I can think of few things more rewarding. It's easy to get wrapped up in a person or place or event, and you want to share what you uncover with others. Mathias Loras was a man of vision. There is no doubt about that. At times he could be very difficult to work with, but I don't know if I've ever come across someone with more determination to accomplish a dream."

This production was made possible by a generous grant from Humanities Iowa and the National Endowment for the Humanities, as well as aid from the Archbishop Kucera Center. Schaefer noted the generosity of others in providing assistance for the film.

"*Man of Deeds* could not have been made without the generosity of a long list of people. We are very thankful that so many took the time to offer their knowledge and talent. Their input was absolutely invaluable."

Below is a movie trailer for this documentary available on YouTube.
Loras Alumni and Students Team Up to Do Service in Des Moines

The Loras Network of Des Moines partnered up with twenty-one Loras College students and staff for Rebuilding Together in Des Moines on Saturday, May 7, 2011.

On May 7, the Loras student/alumni group was one of several groups across the country that repaired homes for low income or elderly persons. This year in Des Moines alone there were thirty-five homes that received work by volunteers with Rebuilding Together.

This is the first year that current Loras students joined the Loras alumni in Rebuilding Together Des Moines. The student volunteers are members of the Loras Student Alumni Council and the Iowa Campus Compact AmeriCorps Program. They joined the Loras Network of Des Moines and other Des Moines-area businesses and organizations at a local home in Des Moines to caulk, prime, paint, and repair the front steps and fence, do yard clean up, and complete numerous small tasks requiring carpentry and plumbing skills. The homeowner who received the service is elderly and has physical disabilities that prevent her from doing all of the things that need to be done to her house.

Rebuilding Together is a national organization that has gained prominence in the last few years. The Loras Club of Des Moines (currently the Loras Network of Des Moines) became involved with Rebuilding Together about 15 years ago through Dick Wright ('57), who was the house captain for the first Rebuilding Together project in which Loras alumni were involved. Since then, the Loras Network of Des Moines has been actively involved with Rebuilding Together. For the past seven years, Scott Peterson ('76) has served as a house captain for one of the Rebuilding Together groups in the Des Moines area, and always joining his team are Loras alumni and members of other local businesses, including John Deere Credit, Des Moines Parrot Head Club, the Ankeny Police Department, and the Giles Street Association.

“The greatest part of Rebuilding Together for me is stepping back at the end of the day and seeing what a tremendous impact the volunteers have made on someone’s life,” Peterson remarked. “As we do the ‘walk through’ to review the jobs completed, we never fail to bring tears of gratitude to the eyes of the homeowner.”

“This year is also special because of the large group of Loras College students that have volunteered to help our effort,” Peterson continued. “I am very proud to be helping to prepare the next generation of volunteers.”
Loras Players Celebrates 100 Years

The Loras Players celebrated its 100th Anniversary during the 2010/2011 academic year. In addition to the Players usual line up of ambitious productions, special programming commemorated the year starting with guest Loras Players alumnus Karen Morrow, one of the first Loras Players to go on to star on Broadway and TV. Her September appearance featured a Master Class with area high school and Loras students and culminated in a wonderful performance by Morrow and the top three Master Class performers. Morrow was accompanied by local Dubuque music legend and fellow Loras Player Geri Goodman, who also played for two other of the year-long events. Cabaret Night in October was part of Homecoming festivities, and over 60 Loras alumni performers took to the stage to show anyone who was wondering if “they’ve still got it.” Snippets of student-produced, written, and directed video about the Loras Players tied the alumni performances together, with two parodies—It’s a Hard Knock Life and I’m Still Here—bringing down the house as lyrics reflected what it’s like to age gracefully (?) as a Loras Player. Nothing was sacred, actually, as yet another parody—a soliloquy from Shakespeare’s Hamlet—and a roast of current Loras Players director Doug Donald also hit the boards.

In January, the Loras Library’s fourth floor gallery turned exhibit hall with memorabilia and photos reflecting the Loras Players 100-year legacy. The gallery exhibit was extended through April. February provided a sticky event, as the Loras Players invited costumer extraordinaire Barak Stribling for a lecture and day-long Project Runway competition. Area grade school and high school students, Loras students, and community theatre companies vied to stay “in” with a Broadway show-inspired costume contest. Working in teams, the designers created and paraded their costumes under the mentorship of Stribling who also gave a lecture about the industry. The costumes were made out of Duck Tape, as the national brand donated over $2500 in brightly colored and patterned tape for the event. The Loras Players claimed Best in Show. The final guest appearance was none other than Loras Players alum and Broadway, TV, and Radio star Bob Kaliban. Kal also held a Master Class and gave a lecture/performance entitled “One Lucky Loras Lad.” By all accounts, the lucky ones were those in the audience, as Kal brought to life several of the multitude of characters he’s created over the years, including a very fun spot he just did with none other than Jerry Seinfeld.

While the ghost light on stage in St. Joseph Auditorium, Hoffmann Hall now replaces the spotlight that shined so gloriously during the year-long celebration, the memories made still beam for all those who participated in 100 Years of Loras Players. Here’s to the next century. Congratulations Loras Players.

Support for the Loras Players Anniversary events was made possible by generous grants from the City of Dubuque, the Iowa Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts, Alliant Energy and Eastern Iowa Tourism Association.
Hello! My name is Jessie Gerlach, a 2006 alumnus and youngest of five children who have all graduated from this great college. As you can probably imagine, my exposure to Loras started when I was young (still in junior high), and my love for Loras blossomed ever since. It started with attending Sunday night mass at Loras with my older siblings and being amazed at how many people they were saying hi to. The connections they had made at Loras were some that have stayed with them as they've started their own careers after graduation. Each of my older siblings, myself included, have won the Loras Network of Dubuque scholarship, which definitely contributed to those connections. Along with winning the scholarship to help pay for school, I reflect on working at the annual golf outing in Dubuque where I met numerous Duhawks who shared my passion for Loras. Those connections were important, as I continued to win the scholarship each year I attended college. It is important for me to stay involved with the Loras Network because just as I benefitted from the scholarship when I was a student, other students from the area can make connections just like I did.

One of the many things I learned at Loras was about service, and what it means to give back. It can be difficult to volunteer your time to the Loras community, but is definitely something one should consider. I just recently became involved with the Young Alumni Advisory Board, a group of young alumni from various cities in charge of organizing events for Duhawks and getting feedback from local alums. We try to find ways to involve alumni with current students, bring alumni back to campus, and to inform alumni of the other Duhawks who live in their same city. With living in Waterloo for almost 2 years now, I hadn’t really heard of any events when I moved here and wanted to do something about that. As mentioned earlier, another way to give back is coming back to Loras, whether it is speaking to a club on campus or volunteering in the classroom. At the end of April, I returned to St. Joseph Science Hall to speak to Health Science Club members about my career path to becoming a physician assistant, my activities at Loras that helped me reach that goal, as well as what life is like outside of college. We never really know how sharing our story can impact others.

I am very grateful for the opportunities that Loras has given me to further my education, learn the value of service, and enhance my knowledge of Catholicism. I would not be the person I am today without the these values instilled in me by Loras College. It is our “Duhawk duty” to give back in any way that we can.
Loras Experience: Tom Cashman (‘60)

My experience at Loras - a perfect college for me.

Like every Irishman on Chicago's West Side, Notre Dame was my dream school. When Loras awarded me a $500.00 scholarship, and N.D. was financially impossible- I was off to Dubuque.

Due to Fr. Kutsch, Msgr. Schulte, Msgr. Foley, Fr. Schroeder, Al Schramm and others, I was fortunate to have every advantage of a college education in the 1950's. Their example and teaching along with the opportunities in chemistry, student government, and to play every intramural sport available was an experience I'll always treasure.

What was most unforgettable about Loras was that everything was based on a strong Catholic Education. Without my days at Loras, I doubt if I would have been as conscientious about my faith- and I will always value that part of my life.

Loras was indeed the perfect school for me, and I believe Loras's current leadership, thanks to Jim Collins, has continued the great tradition. I am extremely proud of my Alma Mater- I always make sure that everyone knows that I am a graduate of Loras College.

This spring, Thomas J. Cashman (’60) was named Chicago’s Outstanding Irishman and was presented with the forty-fourth annual Richard J. Daley Award by the Irish Fellowship Club of Chicago. This award recognizes Cashman for his leadership, his wisdom, his dedication to the public good, and his inspired service to the cause, character, and spirit of the Irish.
Scholarships: Sujan Devbhandari ('11)

Sujan Devbhandari is from Kathmandu, Nepal. He came to Loras College to continue studying biology and chemistry, and to receive a college education in the United States. Devbhandari is graduating with a major in Biological Research and minors in Chemistry and Mathematics. He is graduating as one of the Top 20 in the class of 2011. In addition, he was recently awarded the highly competitive and prestigious McElroy Graduate Fellowship from R.J. McElroy Trust.

During his time at Loras, Devbhandari has been constantly involved in a number of research programs and courses. In his sophomore year, he started to do his undergraduate research for his thesis, entitled “Examining Extra-Pair Paternity in Black Terns from Southeast Wisconsin.” Devbhandari worked under the supervision of Dr. David Shealer, associate professor of biology.

“Research was what I really liked, so then I applied to research programs at bigger universities,” explained Devbhandari. In the summer between his sophomore and junior year, Devbhandari attended the University of Iowa’s summer research program, called FUTURE in Biomedicine, where he worked together with Dr. David Speckhard, professor of chemistry. Devbhandari spent the next summer at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York City.

Devbhandari has been accepted into the highly prestigious Weill Graduate School of Medical Sciences of Cornell University in New York City. He will be pursuing a PhD in Biomedical Sciences.

As one of the top-ranked clinical and medical research centers in the country, the program is highly competitive.

“I am interested in working in the field of cell biology to understand the mechanism of diseases like cancer, AIDS, and other such diseases,” explained Devbhandari. “I would like to potentially find therapies for them.”
Achievements: Amy Kirkpatrick (’11)

A native of Lincoln, Nebraska, Amy Kirkpatrick graduated from Loras College with degrees in both English Literature and Spanish, and a minor in Catholic Studies. During her time at Loras, she has been involved in the Breitbach Catholic Thinkers and Leaders program, AmeriCorps, the Loras Players, Delta Epsilon Sigma (as an officer), Loras College choirs, campus ministry, Study Abroad (Spain), the Lorian, the writing center, and more.

Amy has spent countless hours volunteering and helping others; she regularly devotes time to cantoring at mass for the Sisters of the Presentation in Dubuque or lending a hand at the Catholic Worker Farm. Amy graduated as one of the Top 20 students in the class of 2011.

Upon graduation, Amy is taking her talents to South Bend, Indiana, where she was accepted into the prestigious Notre Dame Alliance for Catholic Education program. ACE is a service through teaching program, which combines service, education and spirituality.

“I couldn’t decide between a year of service or graduate school, but I knew I wanted an intense experience that was rooted in Catholic values,” explained Kirkpatrick.

She began taking classes in South Bend immediately following Loras’ graduation. The program includes graduate classes in South Bend during the summers and a teaching assignment at various places throughout the country during the school year. In the fall, the program will take Amy to Plaquemine, Louisiana, where she will teach Spanish at St. John’s Catholic High School. As an initial teaching licensure program, in two and half years she will receive her teaching certification as well as a Masters in Education.

“I am excited to continue my education while exploring a new field,” said Kirkpatrick. “Teaching will challenge me, but I will be living in intentional Christian community with other ACE teachers so we can provide one another with support and encouragement.”