Loras Link: September 2011

Convocation

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Watch some footage from Convocation 2011 by clicking on the image below:

Welcome to first-year students and best wishes to everyone for the academic year ahead!
Relive Loras Choir Days

By Sheila Walsh Dettloff ('84)

“Remember when …?” It’s something we hear more and more often as the years go by. Reminiscing is a great way to bring the past to life. But how many of us get a chance to relive those times?

The Loras Alumni Choir Concert in October will give us exactly that opportunity! If you were in a Loras choir, you know and maybe miss the fun, friendships and, most important, the magic of joining our voices together in great choral music.

Maybe you sang under Roy Carroll, Kristin Eby or Bruce Kotovich. If, like me, you sang under Jack Broman, you probably have a very special place in your heart for the Loras Concert Choir. On October 7 and 8, we have a chance to relive those memories and sing with Jack again … from the laughs (you KNOW you’re going to hear a lot of “Bromanisms”) to the goosebumps (“Seven Last Words”, anyone?) and maybe even a tear or two (you don’t really think we’ll get through “Song of Farewell" with dry eyes, do you?).

As Jack said, “My memories from my days at Loras with the Concert Choir WE built will stay with me forever.” I think it’s safe to say that we feel the same.

The Loras Choirs will also be performing, and they’ll be combined with the Alumni Choir to end the evening. Rehearsals are the evening of Friday, October 7, and during the day on Saturday, October 8. The concert will be at 7:30 pm on October 8.

To register to sing with the alumni choir, fill out the registration form at http://alumni.loras.edu/choir11. Or, if you live in the Dubuque area and want to hear Christ the King filled with song, mark Saturday, October 8, at 7:30 pm on your calendar. Either way, I’d love to see you there.
Stormy Mochal (’99): On the Art of Illustration

Creating a book has been a dream that Stormy Mochal (’99) has had since first grade when she wrote and illustrated Myrtle the Turtle. With a lot of practice, persistence, and artistic talent, her dream has finally come true. Stormy has just finished illustrating her first children’s book, titled The Juggler, written by Jeanette Hopkins of Sioux City, Iowa. It is scheduled to be published in the fall of 2011 by Ice Cube Press of North Liberty, Iowa.

Stormy received her degree in painting and art history from Loras in 1999. She has taught art classes at NICC Community College and to children and teens in her home studio in Dubuque since 2000. She has also held numerous exhibits and attended many art fairs around the tri-state area, taking home several people’s choice awards.

Stormy created the illustrations for The Juggler using a variety of collage materials. “The work begins with an original pencil drawing on paper which is then colored with several layers of oil pastel. Once the color is complete it is scratched into, revealing the under layers,” Stormy explains. “The scratching in the backgrounds of the work is done in the form of free flow journaling; I write my thoughts on top of each other until they become illegible, until they become an unrepeatable form. Then I repeat the process in pencil. Once the color is laid, various papers are glued or sewn to the work and other embellishments are added. The figure is always the last element to be completed.” Free flow writing is often present in Stormy’s work. The writing is thought turned to form, only to be seen, not meant to be read.

Because she is an artist herself, Stormy Mochal’s mission is to help artists blossom and sustain themselves. As co-owner of Outside the Lines Art Gallery in Dubuque, Iowa, since 2003, Stormy sells the work of both local/regional artists, including her own. This year, Outside the Lines is facilitating a new arts project called The Great Draw Street Art Competition, which will create a scholarship fund for a local high school student planning to study the visual arts in college.

On Friday, September 30, 2011, from 5:30-8:00 p.m., Stormy and Jeanette will host “The Juggler: Exhibition and Book Signing” at the Visitation at Loras College. At this event, they will release the book, showcase Stormy’s original collage works, and hold a book signing. The two will also hold a question and answer session and explain the background of the book.

The Juggler will be available for sale at Outside the Lines Art Gallery and River Lights Bookstore in Dubuque, as well as amazon.com and bn.com and the publisher’s website, http://www.icecubepress.com/.
Homecoming 2011 Preview

Whenever alumni come back to campus, they have unique—and often unbelievable—stories about what made their own Loras experience unforgettable. Whether they reminisce about staying out past the Keane Hall curfew, studying among the many shelves in the basement of the old Wahlert Library, or playing intramurals on the lawn where the Academic Resource Center now sits, one common theme emerges through their stories:

There’s no place like Loras.

Homecoming is as much about reacquainting yourself with campus and classmates as it is about all the fun events you can attend throughout the course of the weekend. If you have not been back to campus in a while—or even if you have—you will notice a myriad of changes that have taken place just in the past several months.

Those of you who make your way back for Homecoming on September 23-25 will have the chance to eat lunch on Friday in the newly renovated cafeteria, or stop by Graber to take a look at the new floor, new purple divider curtains, and other renovations. On your way to the soccer or football games, stop by the new grotto, moved from behind the St. Joseph Science Hall to a more central location near Wahlert Hall and the Smyth turnaround. While strolling down Cox Street toward the tailgate, imagine what it will look like in the coming years as the street is transformed into the pedestrian-friendly Loras Parkway.

Along with the traditional Homecoming events—such as the Loras/Clarke reception, the liturgies, the athletic games, tailgate, and the Homecoming Presidential Dinner—there are several new events making their debut during Homecoming 2011. On Friday, the Marketing Alumni Panel, the Man of Deeds (Bishop Loras) documentary, the Heitkamp Planetarium show, and the Athletic and Wellness Special Naming Ceremony and Recognition are all events making their first appearance at Homecoming. On Saturday, new events include the Student Leader Reception, the Loras Lawyers/Mock Trial/Mediation and Moot Court Alumni Breakfast, the Judo 50th Anniversary Alumni Reception, and the availability of the special collections and the Loras College Archives. On Sunday, two new events - the Phi Beta Lambda 5K run/walk and the Alumni Softball Game - will be featured.

Another event you will not want to miss out on is the elegant Homecoming Presidential Dinner to be held in the Alumni Campus Center ballroom on Saturday, September 24. Besides enjoying a delicious meal and sharing in conversations with fellow Duhawks, you will have the opportunity to hear President Jim Collins ('84) speak about the initiatives and accomplishments of the College and listen to the inspiring stories of this year’s Distinguished Alumni recipients, who will be honored at the dinner. Remember to register online before September 8 for this dinner to take advantage of the early bird discount ($30). Dinner tickets will be $40 after September 8.

Whether you come back for Homecoming every year or every 50 years, this year’s Homecoming is certain to bring back old memories and give you innumerable opportunities to make new ones!
Important Homecoming Reminders:

**Change in time/location of Homecoming Pep Rally:** The Homecoming Pep Rally listed on the brochure has been moved from Friday night, September 23, to Wednesday, September 21.

**Parking:** In addition to campus parking, the Nativity Church parking lot will be available for Loras College alumni. A trolley will also be available for pick-up and drop-off at many locations throughout campus and the Nativity Parking lot.

**Reunion Events:** Reunion gatherings are listed on the 2011 Homecoming Reunion Gatherings webpage.

**Registration:** For a complete schedule of Homecoming events and activities, please visit http://alumni.loras.edu/hc2011. Homecoming registration is available online.
2011 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

On September 10, five former Duhawks will be welcomed into the Loras College Varsity Hall of Fame. The new members are graduates from 1970 through 1995 from a variety of sports.

“We are thrilled to welcome these five inductees back to campus and into the Loras College Varsity Athletics Hall of Fame. While they represent diversity in the sports in which they participated and the contributions they have made, they all exemplify the mission of Loras College. The mission of the institution and quality of the inductee representing the Duhawks transcends time and eras. These five inductees represent Loras past and present,” said Loras College Athletic Director, Bob Quinn ('86).

The five honorees are Jeff Carter ('81), John Cody ('72), Kendall Griffin ('95), Frank Quigley ('79), and Mike Runde ('70). Each of these new members brought something special to Loras College in his respective sport(s).

Jeff Carter, Class of 1981, Men's Basketball

Loras built the best three-year stretch in program history during Carter's years, winning 67 games and dropping just 30.

John Cody, Class of 1972, (Club) Football

Cody attended an annual Club Football Convention in New York as the weather broke in the winter-spring transition of 1970 and led the committee which tackled the financial, coaching, health, equipment, and other logistical concerns associated with the renaissance.

Kendall Griffin, Class of 1995, Football

There was no more successful four-year stretch during the Bob Bierie football era than the 1990-93 seasons. This success, undoubtedly, was due in large part to Kendall Griffin and his role as a wide receiver and return man with the Duhawks during that stretch.
Frank Quigley, Class of 1979, Men's Swimming

Most notable among Quigley's regular successes was his appearance in the NAIA National Swimming Meet in 1979. Quigley was the Duhawks' first swimmer to reach the national meet, where he competed in the 100 Yard Backstroke in Hunstville, Alabama.

Mike Runde, Class of 1970, Baseball (Club Football)

Runde is the man responsible for lining up the series of dominos to be knocked down in order to bring Loras College football back to campus after it disappeared following the 1959 season.
Loras College is happy to report the start of an improved DuTalk Civil Discourse Program. The Diversity Committee and the Catholic Identity Committee have been working on the program for the past year and are going to be implementing some new programming around it this school year.

DuTalk is a chance for students to express their opinions about many controversial topics in an accepting and friendly environment. Students will build their listening skills, learn to discuss issues in a civil manner with their peers, and build trust and gain friendships.

This year there will be two different options to participate in DuTalk. The first way the campus community can participate on a regular basis is by attending a series of meetings related to civil discourse. The second option allows community members to come to just one session, participate, and leave without committing to a series of workshop sessions.

Alejandro Pino, Intercultural Programs Office Director and facilitator of DuTalk, said, “As an institution, the DuTalk Program will remain in line with the College’s overall goal of preparing students for a rapidly changing world. It will create a learning experience which respects the dignity of all and celebrates our unique backgrounds.” Neither facilitators nor participants will completely grasp the variety and scope of differences between the members of the group until the discussions are underway, starting this fall!
Loras Engineering Students To Compete Abroad

Two outstanding Loras College students earned a distinguished award and a unique opportunity to participate in the International Digilent Design Competition being held in Munich, Germany. Nicholas Burek (Junior with majors in Engineering and CIT-Science from Brimfield, IL) and Thomas Griebel (Junior with a major in CIT-Science and minors in Mathematics and Philosophy from Bellevue, IA) won the grand prize at the Regional Digilent Design Contest for engineering and were offered the chance to travel to Munich, Germany, for the final competition Sept. 13-18, 2011, where they will compete with students from across the globe. The contest’s challenge, with a theme of “The Next Big Idea Can Come from Anywhere”, must use Digilent products, including:

- Digital design projects featuring Digilent’s FPGA boards, developed in environments such as Xilinx ISE WebPack or ISE Foundation and National Instruments LabView

- Microcontroller projects featuring Digilent’s PIC-based embedded control boards, developed in environments such as Microchip MPLAB

Burek and Griebel worked together to create a gaming platform. They also designed and demonstrated two games: Pong and Frogger. Their efforts were recognized as exemplary for not simply building another game, but designing a platform that could be readily used by others as well to develop their own projects. If you are interesting learning more about the projects or in helping the team fund their trip to Munich, please contact Danial Neebel, PhD, PE, Engineering and Computing and Information Technology, Loras College.