



Dear Colleagues and Students,

I hope this note finds you and your family doing well. For those of us in the Dubuque area, we experienced beautiful weekend weather. It sure afforded me with quality time outside and with family.

In an effort to keep you updated, I am providing a few points of information for your review and consideration:

P/NC Guidelines

Dr. Heald has communicated, as promised, with all students as it relates to our modified deadlines and policy changes for this semester only. Please be sure to read these important guidelines thoroughly and act accordingly. I offer special thanks to Dr. Heald, her academic leadership team, and our faculty for providing these flexible options for our students given the unique circumstances.

Student Room/Board Refunds

By the end of this week, all students who were living in campus housing or had a meal plan for spring term will receive a communication from Senior Vice-President, Dr. Mary Ellen Carroll, with regard to your refund/credit. Please be attentive to your e-mail communications from Loras.

Laptop Exchange

In the days ahead, my colleagues from Information Technology will send a communication to returning students about the approach we will use to facilitate the laptop exchange. In an effort to be repetitive, please pay attention to your e-mail.

Commencement

Yesterday, I sent a communication to the Class of 2020 informing them that their graduation ceremony and accompanying events will be held in conjunction with Loras' Homecoming. The senior dinner will be held on Thursday, October 8. The Baccalaureate Liturgy and Commencement Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 9. If, for reasons beyond our control, we can't hold these events in October, the alternate dates of December 5 and 6 have been selected.

Remote Work and Iowa COVID-19 Status

This past Friday, the State of Iowa health officials issued new data that suggest we will not reach our virus peak until later than projected – May 6. Therefore, I am extending our remote work provision for “non-essential” faculty, staff and administration until end of the day, May 29. Previously, this provision was in place until April 30.

As of this morning, the State of Iowa reported a total of 3,159 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Of the confirmed cases, 46 are from Dubuque County. There have been 79 deaths including 1 from Dubuque County. The state reports 25,820 people have been tested. Of the confirmed cases, 1,235 have recovered.

Summer Operations

The administration continues to discuss the complexities of our campus summer operations. We plan to issue decisions related to June and July offerings within the next 7 to 10 days. For now, we are planning to begin the Fall semester with all scheduled August activities.

Student, Faculty, Staff Awards and Recognition

This is the time of year when we gather to celebrate the significant achievements of so many of you. Obviously, we won't be able to gather in person this semester, but we are in the process of developing a robust set of communications that offer the best possible praise and recognition you all so deserve. It never ceases to amaze me how accomplished and talented our students, staff and faculty are in achieving such widespread achievement.

Loras Together - Gratitude

I have been in contact with a number of students and colleagues since most of us departed campus. I am inspired and humbled by all the ways you have worked to ensure a continuous, collaborative, selfless, and supportive community spirit even as we are apart. Each of you is finding a way to contribute, support each other, or to spread love and deep care for one another. I am forever grateful and beyond proud. #LorasTogether

Closing

This weekend, as several of my colleagues and I were communicating various strategies, spreadsheets, concerns, suggestions, and solutions back and forth, I so appreciated receiving an e-mail from our beloved Professor of Philosophy, Dr. Roman Ciapalo. He offered a kind message, but I especially enjoyed the touching poem he passed along to me. I hope you find it as positively impactful in its simplicity as I found it to be for me.

God Bless,

James E. Collins '84
President
Loras College

WHEN THIS IS OVER

by

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

When this is over,

may we never again take for granted;

A handshake with a stranger, Full shelves at the store,

Conversations with neighbors,

A crowded theater, Friday night out,

The taste of Communion, A routine checkup,

The school rush each morning, Coffee with a friend,

The stadium roaring, Each deep breath! A boring Tuesday. Life itself.

When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be,

we were called to be,

we hope to be,

and may we stay that way — better for each other because of the worst.