



Dear Campus Community,

5/13/2020

I hope this note finds each of you and your families healthy, safe, and stable. Further, I hope all of you had a good Mother's Day weekend regardless of the circumstances. Please find below my periodic update:

COVID-19 Status

The state of Iowa has yet to hit its peak, but here is the current update:

- 81,288 tested; 1 out of every 38 Iowans has been tested
- 12,912 tested positive; 1 out of every 242 Iowans has tested positive
- 5,618 have recovered
- 289 have died

In Dubuque County:

- 202 tested positive
- 69 have recovered
- 7 have died

We pray especially for all those who have passed away due to this terrible pandemic. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected throughout these long weeks – spiritually, mentally, physically.

Emergency Aid for Students/Families

Senior Vice-President Dr. Mary Ellen Carroll has sent two e-mail communications reminding students that the federal stimulus act provides eligible students with potential financial support. Please know that a link was included within the emails so that you can apply for additional assistance. Please check your e-mail and follow up as appropriate.

Fall '20 Opening

As shared previously, Loras desires and is planning to open up the Fall semester "on-campus" albeit with a new set of health and safety guidelines and requirements. Based on recent conversations, it appears as if all Iowa institutions – private or public- plan to do the same. We are taking into account the many professional guidelines being advanced by various authorities with expertise. Like most of these institutions, Loras is also prepared for alternative solutions. No matter what, Loras is committed to delivering a strong educational experience for students throughout the next academic year.

I fully recognize that we want answers now, but no one of us is in a position to deliver the clarity and certainty we all seek. That said, we are acutely sensitive to the many special considerations and are working hard to develop multiple plans accordingly. We wish to honor mission, student safety, and a strong educational experience as the most cherished priorities.

Remote Work

As you know, we are following remote work protocol until at least the end of this month. While we await further guidance from the state and CDC, our plan is to begin having staff and faculty return to campus as appropriate and within new standardized guidelines. These guidelines will soon be shared unless we extend the remote work provision in the days ahead. We are carefully monitoring the state and local peak figures to assess our next determination.

Summer Course Offerings

As a reminder, we have a robust number of on-line summer course offerings through Loras and our partner institutions across the United States. Courses begin on May 19 and are offered in 4 week blocks over three sessions. Limited space continues to be available. If you are interested in a course(s), please access the following link: <https://www.loras.edu/academics/summer>

While You've Been Away

Given the pandemic and like all of the higher education industry, our revenue streams have dwindled. However, our Loras Parkway insurance settlement and capital campaign restricted gift contributions have allowed us to move forward on a few unfinished capital projects:

- The Loras Cares Lab was supposed to have its ribbon-cutting last week. We'll make it happen in the future, but for now, this new, innovative, mission-consonant space is beautifully complete in Keane Hall. It will be a gift to area cancer patients and a marvelous opportunity for our students to serve and learn.
- The Loras Parkway wall reinforcements, fencing and landscaping are completed.
- The Faber-Clarke wall has been completed and the field was seeded. With a little rain and sun in the days ahead, this new sustainable wall upgrade will look great.
- The outdoor patio about the Loras Parkway wall is in process. I can't wait for our campus community to gather for drinks, food and conversation outside the Pub.
- The gateway/walkway from Christ the King Chapel/Keane Hall to the Alumni Campus Center is being paved/finalized as we speak.

Blessed Farewell

As the academic year concludes, we sadly say "good-bye," and wish God's blessings on those who depart our community for a variety of reasons. We are grateful for your leadership and incredible service!

- **Fr. Andrew Marr '12** - Chaplain
- **Dr. Rebecca Monhardt** – Associate Professor of Education
- **Fr. Douglas Wathier '78** – Professor of Theology

Staff of The Year Award

The Loras Staff Organization (LSO) received a number of outstanding nominations for this wonderful honor which recognizes staff who serve well and go above and beyond on behalf of our students. This year's well-deserving recipient is Assistant Dean of Students **Ms. Molly Burrows-Schumacher '98**.

Student Recognition

Audrey Miller '19 - Audrey received the prestigious R.J. McElroy Trust graduate fellowship selected from a field of finalists from colleges and universities in Northeast Iowa. The fellowship carries a stipend of up to \$36,000 paid over three years. A native of Appleton, Wis., Miller graduated in December 2019 and will pursue a Ph.D. in Geochemistry/Planetary Sciences from the University California, Davis in Davis, California.

Courtney Schnoor '21 - Following a historic season with the Duhawks, Loras College junior women's basketball student-athlete Courtney Schnoor has been selected to compete with the USA D-3 Basketball Select Team as a part of the Brazil tour in August.

Retirements and Recognition

On behalf of the entire Loras community, I offer my sincere appreciation for the faithful service and extraordinary contributions of the following individuals:

- **Ms. Lesley Arnold** – Academic Secretary. Ms. Arnold has served the College for 25 years.
- **Dr. Len Decker** – Professor of Criminal Justice and Chair of the Division of Teacher Education and Behavioral Sciences. Dr. Decker received the distinguished designation of Professor Emeritus. He has served Loras for 21 years.
- **Ms. Julie Dunn '79** – Director of Financial Planning. Ms. Dunn retired in January and served the College for 40 years.
- **Mr. Mike Gibson** – Director of the Center for Dubuque Area History. Mr. Gibson was recently notified by the State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees as the recipient of the prestigious 2020 William J. Petersen - Edgar R. Harlan Award. He has served Loras for 37 years.
- **Ms. Joyce Meldrem** – Director of the Miller Academic Resource Center. Ms. Meldrem retired in August 2019 and served the College for 15 years.
- **Ms. Carol Oberfoell** – Academic Secretary. Ms. Oberfoell has served the College for 36 years.
- **Mr. Don Sloan** – Graber Center Custodian. Mr. Sloan served Loras for 5 years.

We will miss you, but will always be grateful for your faithful service. Be assured of our prayers and best wishes. May God hold you in the palm of His hand as you will forever remain in our hearts!

End of the Academic Year

It is hard to believe that this marks the last week of classes for Loras' 181st academic year. It has been inspiring to witness and hear how accommodating, supportive, and relational our faculty and staff have been for our students. Our students have demonstrated great patience, understanding, and perseverance. I wish you all well as you finish this week strong and prepare for next week's final examinations, assignments, and presentations.

Now more than ever, you have underscored the importance of a Loras education. Our Catholic, liberal arts mission provides clarity around our purpose. We find meaning, value and passion in learning from one another, praying with each other, competing together, working alongside one another, performing together, supporting each other, honoring the dignity and worth of all. In the weeks that we have been away from campus, we have been reminded that one of the most important aspects of Loras is its community. We care and achieve best when we are together. Even as we have been away, the strength and resilience of this community has grown ever more strong, ever more resilient, and ever more successful.

I am blessed to serve such an amazing, gifted, united and faith-filled community in Loras. You all remain in my thoughts and prayers. Stay well and always find ways to be of service to others.

God Bless,

James E. Collins '84
 President
 Loras College
 Senior Vice President