

Loras College Center for Dubuque History
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For Immediate Release

DUBUQUE INFLUENZA LECTURE

DUBUQUE, IOWA – Loras College’s Honors Program will be hosting Dr. Kristin Anderson-Bricker to speak on November 15th and 16th, 2018. The presentation titled, “The ‘Dread Malady’ and La Grippe: Surviving the 1918 Epidemics in the City of Dubuque,” discusses the shocking findings of the historical epidemic and its effect on the Dubuque community. The event will be held in the Loras College Center for Dubuque History at 6:30pm on Thursday, November 15th and at 12:00pm on Friday, November 16th.

This research project highlights the feats that can be accomplished through student-faculty partnership. In 2016, Dr. Anderson-Bricker and students with disciplines ranging from history to data analysis began studying historical documents. The team’s efforts revealed that the disease led to the closure of all public facilities in Dubuque and the quarantining of 2,039 residents. Dr. Anderson-Bricker was also surprised to learn that a polio outbreak was just ending as the flu arrived in the city of Dubuque. She explained, “[Learning this] helped me to understand why some of the evidence the students collected did not match conclusions historians have offered about the community response to influenza across the United States. For example, many cities struggled to enforce quarantines while the people of Dubuque made no complaint and obeyed the public health laws.”

Dr. Anderson-Bricker’s presentation will serve as a one-hundredth year commemoration of the epidemic. “Although I gave a few presentations on the research last spring, this talk is more exciting because it is during the centennial of the influenza outbreak. One-hundred years ago this month the entire city of Dubuque closed down to ensure that individuals did not continue to spread the disease,” Dr. Anderson-Bricker said.

For additional information, contact Loras College Professor of History, Dr. Kristin Anderson-Bricker at (563) 588-7403 or Kristin.Anderson-Bricker@loras.edu.