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FINDING HIS PLACE

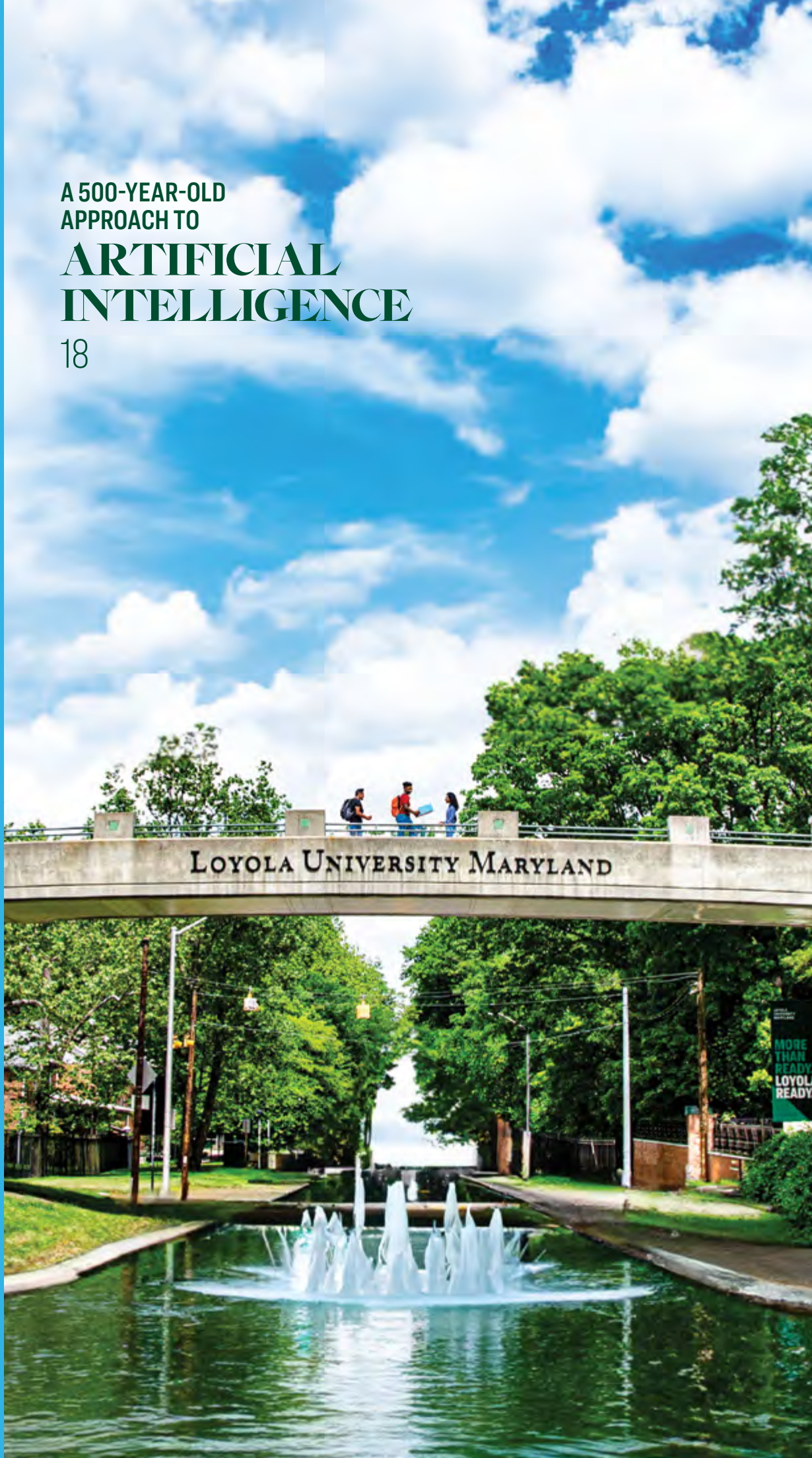
ALANA director helps
recent grad thrive

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**HOW CHAMPIONS
ARE MADE**

Loyola's winningest
women's lacrosse
coach brings strength,
passion to the program

A 500-YEAR-OLD
APPROACH TO
**ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE**

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SCENE

SUNNY WITH A CHANCE OF SHAKESPEARE

For generations, faculty have moved classes outdoors on sunny fall and spring days, leaving many students and alumni with cherished memories of gathering outside for class.

With Loyola's small class size, faculty can easily relocate groups of students to the steps of Alumni Memorial Chapel or the shade of the giant oaks and maples on the Quad. Class discussions often take on new energy and draw inspiration from these idyllic settings.

Loyola's Jesuit, liberal arts education embraces reflecting, being open to new perspectives, and finding God in all things, including in the natural world. The Kelly Family Outdoor Classroom, named for **Gregory P. Kelly, '87**, and **Denise McBride Kelly, '87**, debuted in fall 2021 with the opening of the Miguel B. Fernandez Family Center for Innovation and Collaborative Learning, offering the University's first formal space to engage intellectually outside.

Featuring bench seating, a slate chalkboard, acoustic design, and native trees and lush landscaping as its frame, the outdoor classroom has already become a beloved and well-utilized feature of the Evergreen campus.

The Fernandez Center, which looks out over Cold Spring Lane, further offers an open, inviting entrance to the University—with the Kelly Family Outdoor Classroom connecting Loyola's Academic Quadrangle to our neighborhood and the greater City of Baltimore, welcoming visitors and neighbors to Loyola.

“The earth has music for those who listen.”

William Shakespeare

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

Even with physical changes and the passing of time, visiting Evergreen will still give you a sense of coming home. Because the truth is that no matter how many years pass and how our Jesuit, liberal arts university evolves, there are many aspects of Loyola that remain constant: the strong sense of a warm community, our commitment to our Jesuit values, and our promise to deliver a world-class education to our students.

At Loyola, we take seriously our mission to educate students for a diverse and changing world. Today, as artificial intelligence becomes an increasingly significant part of our daily lives, we recognize—more than ever—the importance of educating individuals who can think critically, communicate effectively, and be prepared to learn and adapt throughout their lifetimes. We are indebted to the Society of Jesus for creating an education that is transformational and timeless, one that has created ethical learners and leaders for 500 years—and will do so for 500 more.

Every fall, we begin anew with a group of incoming students who are eager to embark on their next phase of their lives. We all work to ensure they know that Evergreen is their home—and that they connect with the people who will help them find their place here. I'm so grateful to the talented, dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators across our community who are so invested in our students—and proud to see several of them included in this issue.

This fall, we were excited to welcome another exceptional class of incoming first-year students to the Loyola family. They're an academically outstanding group—and a diverse one. You would be in awe of the creative and generous ways these students are sharing their time and talents to make the world a better place. And that's before they even begin their Loyola education. They're in for the experience of a lifetime.



Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., *President*





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**Director of University
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Rita Buettner

Managing Editor
Brigid Hamilton,
'06, M.A. '17

Executive Editor
Jessica Goldstein

Class Notes Editor
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Project Manager
Julie Pettit

Athletics
Ryan Eigenbrode

Archivist
Jennifer Kinniff

**Additional
Contributing Writers**
Andrew Aldrich
Marcus Dean
Claire Hoffman, '07
Patrick Stevens
Brianna Yacovelli,
'21, M.A. '22

Photographers
Larry French
Jesse D. Garrabrant
(NBAE via Getty Images)
Brigid Hamilton,
'06, M.A. '17
Kristen Kelly
Howard Korn
Malia Leary
Christopher Meyers
Brian Schneider
David Aaron Troy

**FRONT AND
BACK COVER:**
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LEFT:
PHOTO BY KRISTEN KELLY
President Terrence M.
Sawyer, J.D., speaks
with a group of students
in the Refectory in the
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MAGAZINE**

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Notable

NEWS FROM LOYOLA

THE POWER OF A GRANT

THREE NEW EDUCATION GRANTS WILL HELP SHAPE THE LOYOLA COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

BY MARCUS DEAN

“These awards speak volumes about the scholarship of our faculty, the success of our students, and the fact that Loyola is seen as a leader in liberal arts education.”

Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D., NCC, provost and vice president for academic affairs

Loyola recently received several grants, including three that have the potential to offer significant changes at the University. These grants will not only support the University, but also help change the landscape of student success in the Baltimore area.

The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) awarded Loyola a five-year, \$1.2 million grant to establish the Culturally Responsive Equitable STEM Teaching (CREST) program. The CREST program will help teacher candidates develop necessary knowledge and skills to implement equitable practices as STEM teachers in high-need schools. The grant primarily funds student cost of attendance and retention of new teachers.

“The activities of the program are designed to generate a pipeline of teachers with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to implement practices that foster equity in STEM classrooms and encourage students from diverse backgrounds to consider pursuing STEM professions,” said **Timothy Clark, Ph.D.**, associate professor of mathematics and statistics, who spearheaded the CREST grant application process.

Collaborating with Clark on the grant request were **Afra Hersi, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Education, **Qi Shi, Ph.D., LCPC**, director of the Center for Equity, Leadership, and Social Justice in Education (CELSJE), and **Stacy Williams**, clinical professor and teacher education department chair.

The NSF also awarded a second grant that specifically targets funding for a postdoctoral fellow in CELSJE. It's a three-year, \$500,000

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award to help prepare the next generation of STEM professionals. It aims to further research and open new doors for counselors, educators, and programs to address the unique needs of Latinx and Hispanic students.

The third grant was received from the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year, \$3.3 million School-Based Mental Health Services Grant will fund the Culturally Responsive and Inclusive School-Counselor Preparation (CRISP) project.

As a collaborative grant, CRISP will have a transformational impact on the School Counseling program, Loyola community, and Baltimore County

LOYOLA.EDU/CIUE

Learn more about Loyola's Center for Equity, Leadership, and Social Justice in Education.



Loyola School of Education students have ample opportunity to work in nearby schools in Baltimore City and Baltimore County as they prepare to meet the needs of all learners.



BRIAN SCHNEIDER

Public Schools (BCPS). The award will increase high-quality mental health access for BCPS children by increasing diversity and improving the preparation of school counselors who enter the workforce.

Jennifer Scaturo Watkinson, Ph.D., LCPC, associate professor of school counseling and the program director of Loyola's School Counseling Program, led the grant submission. Shi will also have a hand in this grant by leading the evaluation efforts.

"These awards speak volumes about the scholarship of our faculty, the success of our students, and the fact that Loyola is seen as a leader in liberal arts education," says **Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D., NCC**, provost and vice president for academic affairs. "The \$5 million secured between these three grants will help create outcomes that align with Loyola's mission of inspiring students to learn, lead, and serve in a diverse and changing world." 🗨️

GRANTS THROUGH THE YEARS

Loyola magazine takes a quick trip down memory lane to share highlights of some of the most impactful grants received over the years.



COURTESY OF LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY

1963

Loyola received a \$6,300 grant from the National Science Foundation to support undergraduate science education programs.



COURTESY OF LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY

1983

National Endowment for the Humanities awarded Loyola a half-million dollar grant to create a Center for the Humanities.



DAVID AARON TROY

2010

Loyola received a \$500,000 grant from the Clare Boothe Luce Program to sponsor two professorships for women in the sciences. The grant covered the professors' salary and benefits during the initial year tenure and also supplemented the salaries with research funds.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Juan López, '24

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

"I firmly believe that embracing interdisciplinary perspectives is crucial for success in the real world."



Juan López, '24, was selected to participate in the prestigious Junior Summer Institute (JSI) as Loyola's

first Public Policy and International Affairs (PIIA) Fellow. The fully funded seven-week program prepares students from across the nation for a future in public administration and international affairs.

Originally from Ponce, Puerto Rico, López is majoring in Global Studies and minoring in both Innovation & Entrepreneurship and Peace and Justice Studies. "I firmly believe that embracing interdisciplinary perspectives is crucial for success in the real world," López says.

Faculty recommended López for the fellowship because of his aptitude for leadership, intercultural communication skills, intellectual curiosity, and passion for positive change. "Attending Loyola has proven to be a true alignment of destiny in my life. It's where I was meant to be," he says.

Making the most of his time at Loyola, López served as a Stanford University Innovation Fellow and a student delegate at the U.S. Air Force Academy's 2021 Academy Assembly, where he was recognized as Outstanding Delegate. He has volunteered at Baltimore's Esperanza Center, studied politics and globalization while in Taiwan, and is president of the global affairs-oriented Alexander Hamilton Society.

After completing four graduate classes at the University of Washington's Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance during the PPIA fellowship, López looks forward to pursuing a master's degree—and eventually launching a career focused on advocating for equal rights for Puerto Ricans.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND MENTAL HEALTH

MARIE YEH, PH.D., EXAMINES MODERN-DAY MARKETING

BY ANDREW ALDRICH



Marie Yeh, Ph.D., associate professor of marketing in Loyola's Sellinger School of Business and

Management, specializes in using marketing theory and practice to tackle societal issues such as mental health. Her research includes investigating the stigma around mental health and how to more effectively use marketing to reduce it. Prior to entering higher education, Yeh was an accomplished nonprofit fundraiser and public health educator. Here she provides insights on present-day marketing and best practices for healthy social media use.

How do consumers encounter marketing every day?

With digital and social media marketing, if consumers are online, on their phones, on their Instagram or Facebook apps, they are encountering marketing. And that's on top of the traditional forms of advertising present when, for example, consumers listen to the radio or watch or stream TV shows.

How has social media changed over the last decade? How do marketing and social media intersect today?

While social media has been around for more than two decades, marketing and advertising on social media platforms took time to mature. Although Facebook was launched in 2004, it didn't have its first advertising campaign until 2006. Instagram was launched in 2010, but it didn't introduce sponsored posts until 2013.

Since then, social media platforms have become promotional and engagement channels, and advertising and marketing



have become more targeted and personal. Brands not only target based on your browsing history, they also actively encourage you to follow and engage with them in their online social media communities. Doing so gives them access to your profiles so that they can learn about your interests, your activities, your personal relationships, and your life in general—and they strengthen their relationship with you based on this data.

How does social media affect mental health?

It's complicated. On the positive side, social media allows users to stay connected with loved ones, friends, and family. Users can obtain support, guidance, and

assistance on social media. People with a rare disease, for example, can find others online with the same condition and build a supportive community around that. On the other hand, studies show social media can harm mental health, particularly among young people. Studies have linked heavy social media use to increased risk of depression, anxiety, loneliness, and even suicide. The problem with social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram is users can curate what they show of their lives to other people. Highly curated social media accounts can make everyone else's lives appear better than yours and lead to discontentment or worse.

Further, social media users feel pressure to constantly engage and stay informed

about the world or their friends and families. This always-on mentality can lead to excessive screen time, which can interfere with needs like sleep. Social media platforms can also be toxic. Because users aren't interacting face to face with another person, they often feel free to post negative or cruel comments.

How does your marketing classroom work toward addressing mental health?

I provide a positive, supportive, and transformative experience in my classes that helps build my students' skills and, ultimately, their confidence in themselves. For example, in my sales class, I teach students persuasive communication skills that they can use not only in a career in sales, but in life. I also teach them about handling things like rejection, negative feedback, and failure. They find the assignments challenging, but with the supportive classroom environment, they all have the opportunity to succeed. That gives them the skills and, more importantly, the confidence to sell themselves for jobs and internships, which positively affects their mental health.

How can our readers use social media in a healthy way?

Set limits and boundaries for yourself. Limit the time you spend scrolling and take breaks from social media altogether. Recognize what you're viewing isn't reality; it's a positively skewed curation. Use social media as an opportunity to engage and connect rather than as a place where you compare yourself to others. Use it as a tool to interact and foster relationships rather than as a standard for comparing your life to. Only follow people and things you enjoy and are interested in.

Notable Thought Leaders

We're proudly sharing these comments that reflect those reported by local, regional, and national media.



"People become a little more tired and fatigued from how many influencers there are and how much we're told to buy, buy, buy. Only follow someone if you're just enjoying them, almost for entertainment's sake. Don't put all your trust and faith in what they recommend."

Greg Hoplamazian, Ph.D., associate professor of communication, interviewed by WJZ

"People want flexibility ... and they want autonomy in how they work. That's more important than even where they work."

John Michel, Ph.D., Busch Scholar and associate professor of management, speaking to WJZ



"It's important you feel comfortable at a college of your choice, and the setting of a college could impact what your comfort level is. Do you want to live in a big city or just be adjacent to a city while having a residential campus experience? Or are you comfortable with a small college town that is tucked away from a metropolitan area?"

Eric Nichols, vice president for enrollment management, featured in *U.S. News & World Report*

"It doesn't matter that Prigozhin and his soldiers did not reach Moscow, and in the long run it doesn't even matter why he stopped short of Moscow. What matters is that Putin blinked."

Mary Kate Schneider, Ph.D., director of Global Studies and lecturer of political science, quoted by *USA TODAY*



"This is part of our ongoing conversation about the tensions around racism and around race. We've seen different iterations of: 'What does it mean to be Black in America? Where do we fit into America? Whose America is this? And if we want to have equity, what does this equity look like?'"

Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., professor of communication and African and African American Studies and founding executive director of the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice, quoted by the *New York Times*

"It was hard to tell our story when we couldn't have visitors on campus, but we still had reasonable class sizes, and that speaks to our brand."

President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., discussing the University's approach during COVID-19 with the *Washington Post*

Notable Faces of Loyola

MICHAEL PUMA

BY BRIANNA YACOVELLI, '21, M.A. '22

“LOYOLA IS ITS PEOPLE.”

MEET THE DEAN OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Michael Puma works to develop programs and practices that enhance the academic success of all students. He has been deeply committed to supporting Loyola students since joining the campus community in 2002, first in student life and now through his current position, which he has held for the last year.

THE BEGINNINGS OF MESSINA

Puma was the lead in implementing Messina, the University's distinctive first-year living and learning program, which he directed for 11 years. “As Loyola has continued to diversify, it is important for our faculty and colleagues across campus to work together to support students in a unifying manner. Messina allows us to meet and walk with our students through their first year of college.”



ALONG FOR THE JOURNEY

Puma's favorite part of his job is being able to work directly with students and see not only their academic success, but their whole journey at Loyola—from incoming first-year students to seniors who are ready to launch. “It is inspiring being able to work with students and their faculty, so they can reach their goals inside and outside of the classroom.”

LOOKING FORWARD

Puma continually looks for additional opportunities for students that enhance the learning experience across campus. “I have had a lot of opportunities this year to work with people and departments across campus, to think about our policies to make them more inclusive for students. Our goal is to make sure that we remove barriers when we can and ensure that every student is set up to understand where their resources are.”

INTERESTS

Broadway shows, playing and watching tennis, and the guilty pleasure of listening to '90s pop divas

Notable News

Making Business Our Business



The Sellinger School of Business and Management's Professional's MBA, a part-time MBA program designed for working professionals, was ranked No. 102 in the nation in *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023-24 Best Graduate Schools. The Best Graduate Schools rankings are based on expert opinion about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research, and students.

Phenomenal Fulbrights

Four Greyhounds were awarded prestigious Fulbright Awards to spend one year abroad. **Christina Guerra, '23**, will go to Laos; **Isis Santoni Morro, '23**, to Peru; **Mary Velazquez, '23**, to the United Kingdom; and **Anna Young, '23**, to Spain's Canary Islands. The Fulbright U.S. Student Program facilitates cultural exchanges in more than 140 countries around the world through opportunities to engage in research in a foreign country or teach English to students of various age groups. Through engagement in the community, grantees interact with their hosts on a one-to-one basis in an atmosphere of openness, academic integrity, and intellectual freedom, thereby promoting mutual understanding.

Best of the Best

Loyola earned 4.5 out of a possible 5 stars in *Money's* ranking of the Best Colleges in America of 2023. The rankings were compiled by analyzing graduation rates, cost of attendance, financial aid, and alumni salaries. Only 736 colleges across the United States were included on the list.



Newest Hounds by the Numbers

Loyola welcomes a strong and diverse Class of 2027 this fall, which will likely be the third largest first-year class in University history once the fall census count occurs. This class is expected to be the most racially diverse class in history with 40% of incoming students identifying as students of color. In addition, a record 25% are first-generation college students and 21% are Pell eligible, which ties the largest percentage on record from last year's class. The Class of 2027 hails from 34 states, Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and 17 countries. International students comprise 2% of the class, marking the largest incoming class of international students at Loyola in at least two decades.

40%

SELF-IDENTIFY AS A STUDENT OF COLOR

25%

ARE FIRST IN THEIR FAMILY TO ATTEND COLLEGE

65%

ARE FROM OUTSIDE MARYLAND

21%

ARE PELL ELIGIBLE

High-Earning Alumni

Loyola is recognized nationally among 100 colleges whose graduates go on to have the highest earnings. Using data from PayScale, Stacker ranked colleges by highest median mid-career (10+ years of experience) earnings. The list highlighted how 95% of Loyola alumni are employed or pursuing graduate school within six months of graduating. Stacker has recognized Loyola as one of the best colleges in Maryland and a Maryland college with the best ROI in prior ranking reports.

Loyola Ready for the Next Chapter

Loyola's most recent First Destination Survey reported that more than 97% of the Class of 2022 were employed, enrolled in graduate school, or engaged in postgraduate service or military service within six months of graduation.

York Corridor BID

Commercial property owners voted to approve the York Corridor Business Improvement District (BID), a community advocacy and improvement organization intended to provide services that ensure a clean, green, and vibrant corridor. Loyola University Maryland was one of the entities associated with the BID when it was first proposed in 2015 and



has long supported the proposal. The BID vote passed with 80% support among corridor business property owners who voted.

Bringing Aid, Advancing Justice

Loyola was awarded the Community Partner for Justice Award by the Maryland Legal Aid Justice Council and the Equal Justice Council. The award recognized Loyola's support of three expungement clinics over the course of 2022 and 2023. Loyola partnered with Maryland Legal Aid to hold the expungement clinics at 5104 York Road in Baltimore, the location of the Govans Farmers' Market. Loyola students and attorneys who are alumni and friends of Loyola volunteered for the clinics, offering one-on-one assistance to participants, advising them on legal matters and preparing petitions on site. Additionally, the clinic provided student volunteers an opportunity for service-learning, a critical part of Loyola's mission and Jesuit, liberal arts academic experience. Interested in getting involved with future expungement clinics? Contact alumni@loyola.edu.



Notable Cura Personalis

CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

FINDING HIS PLACE

ALANA DIRECTOR HELPS RECENT GRAD THRIVE

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN, '07

When Daelin Cook, '23, attended an open house for accepted students prior to his first year at Loyola, he came across as something of an introvert, remembers Raven Williams. But as he started getting involved on campus, the University's director of ALANA (African, Latinx, Asian, and Native American) Services quickly realized Cook was anything but shy.

"I had the opportunity to watch him blossom, and four years later, he evolved into one of our strongest student leaders," recalls Williams.

From that first meeting, Cook felt an instant bond with Williams, whom he

"I want to make sure students know that they are included, that they have that sense of belonging."

Raven Williams, director of ALANA Services

affectionately calls "Ms. Raven." "When she said, 'I'll look out for you and make sure you're OK,' I believed it," he says.

The chance meeting helped Cook decide to attend Loyola—and ultimately turned into a mentoring relationship that would shape his four years on campus.

"Growing up in New York, I always knew I wanted to make a difference in the world. I believe I have a purpose to help people, give back, and be a positive influence," explains Cook, who said he was first drawn to Loyola because "it felt like the perfect place for me to accomplish my goals and be a part of a community that shared my personal values."

He ended up getting involved in everything from the executive board

of the Black Student Association to the Evergreen student leader program, helping new students transition to Loyola from summer orientation through their first year, to the highly selective Green & Grey Society.

Williams also mentored Cook in the prestigious Ignatius Scholars Program and connected him with the Multicultural Awareness Program (MAP), a program for incoming first-year students before the start of the academic year, for which he later became a navigator to help other students.

"Throughout all these steps, Ms. Raven was there guiding me. She's always been there when I need her—not just socially, but academically as well," says Cook.

He recalls a time when he was struggling with both homesickness and his heavy courseload as a biopsychology major in Loyola's Pre-Health Programs (on the pre-nursing track) while also pursuing a business minor. "She helped me with my time management and connected me with so many different resources I needed to succeed."

Those efforts paid off. Cook is now pursuing a graduate degree in nursing at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing and is interested in becoming either a nurse anesthetist or a nurse practitioner in the future. "I am ready to continue my work in nursing and stay in Baltimore for this next chapter," he shares.

"He's really done all the heavy lifting, and I've just been here to encourage him and support him," says Williams, who has worked at Loyola since 2014.

To Williams, finding a mentor is crucial. "As I have navigated my own career, I really appreciate the mentors who encouraged me and shared resources that I was not aware of," she says. And while she notes that ALANA Services is open to all students, she stresses that finding these types of resources can be particularly important to students of color as they navigate a predominately white institution.

"I want to make sure students know that they are included, that they have that sense of belonging," says Williams. "We have to make sure we're intentional with our outreach—that we're extending that hand and saying, 'We're glad you're here, and we want to support you.'" **L**

CHRISTOPHER MYERS



Daelin Cook, '23, enjoys conversation with his friend and mentor, Raven Williams, director of Loyola's ALANA Services, in the Center for Intercultural Engagement in the Andrew White Student Center.



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Find this season's schedule, team highlights, and the latest Greyhounds Athletics news online.

RECOGNITION

WORLD CHAMPION GREYHOUND

MICHAEL MALONE, '94, LEADS DENVER NUGGETS TO NBA TITLE

BY RYAN EIGENBRODE

Add a new line to **Michael Malone's** bio: World Champion.

The 1994 graduate led the Denver Nuggets to the 2023 NBA Title as the team's head coach on June 12 as the Western Conference side took the final series in five games over the Miami Heat.

Denver's title is its first in franchise history and came in the Nuggets' first-ever trip to the Finals.

Malone, who was a four-year letter-winner for the Greyhounds from 1989-93, played in 107 career games at Loyola, starting 39 as a point guard. The history major with a sociology minor totaled 370 points, 279 assists, and 79 steals in an average of 18.5 minutes per game during his four seasons.

"Looking back, Loyola was a great opportunity and a great school, and I met some great people," Malone said. "It was a perfect fit for me, and it's definitely helped me as I've plugged along to where I am today."

Malone started his coaching career on Charles Street in Baltimore as an assistant coach at Friends School. He moved to the college level as an assistant at Oakland University before joining Pete Gillen's staff at Providence College, where he worked from 1995-98. He was also a member of the coaching staff at both the University of Virginia and Manhattan College.

Malone made the jump to the NBA in 2001 when he joined the New York Knicks organization. He was an assistant for Cleveland, New Orleans, and Golden State before landing his first head coaching job in 2013 with the Sacramento



JESSE D. GARRABRANT/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

Kings. The Queens, New York, native landed in Denver starting with the 2015 season—and has been at the head of the bench ever since.

"Watching Loyola alumni achieve at the highest levels in any profession is exactly what we hope for all of our graduates," said **Donna Woodruff**, assistant vice president and director of athletics. "What Michael has done in coaching the Denver Nuggets to their first NBA Championship was incredible to watch and to cheer for from afar. Every person connected to Loyola became a Nuggets fan, and every Greyhound coach and student-athlete is inspired by that run as we all appreciate the hard work, talent, and dedication it takes to reach

that pinnacle of team success."

Malone has a 406-337 regular season record in 10 seasons in the NBA, with Western Conference Semifinal appearances in 2019 and 2021, and a Western Conference Finals bid in between prior to this season's run.

"We have Coach Malone's picture up in our locker room," says Head Men's Basketball Coach **Tavaras Hardy**, according to Pressbox Online. "That's all of our players' goals and dreams. They want to reach that highest level. We want to show them that it can be done and people up there care about us and they're watching us. What Coach Malone is doing is a true inspiration for all of us." **L**

Greyhounds Pride



Scholar-Athlete of the Year

A standout year on the lacrosse field paired with service and academic success in 2022-23 led to student **Sydni Black, '24**, being named one of 10 female semifinalists nationally for the Arthur Ashe, Jr., Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award, a recognition given by *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*. Black is also the award's sport winner for women's lacrosse.

Black holds a 3.77 grade-point average while double majoring in information systems and data analytics as well as leadership and organizational effectiveness. She has been named to the Dean's List each semester she has been at Loyola, and she is a two-time member of the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll.

Black was a *Cura Personalis* Award recipient in fall 2022, an honor at Loyola that recognizes students who embody the Ignatian ideal of caring for the whole person through demonstrated service, leadership, and academic achievement. Black has also been an active member in the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), Black Student-Athlete Coalition, and Student Athletes for Social Justice.

Black, who is from Cincinnati, Ohio, and now in her senior year, was named to the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches

Association (IWLCA) All-Region and All-Patriot League First Teams following the 2023 spring season. She helped lead the Greyhounds to a 19-3 overall record—the second-highest wins total in program history—while finishing second on the team with 55 goals and 81 total points.

Graduating with Academic Honors

Ninety-two Loyola student-athletes celebrated Commencement exercises with their peers in May as the Greyhounds continued to demonstrate excellence in the classroom during the spring semester.

Eleven of the graduates received their master's degrees, while the other 81 earned bachelor's degrees.

During the spring semester, 63 Loyola student-athletes had perfect 4.0 grade-point averages with two seniors, **Albert Kang** (men's soccer) and **Jack Still** (swimming and diving), maintaining perfect marks throughout their entire academic careers. The two were the 2023 recipients of the Mary O'Meara Scholar-Athlete Award for having the highest GPAs of graduating seniors; Kang was also selected to deliver the Commencement address on behalf of his Class of 2023.

Overall, the Greyhounds posted a spring semester GPA of 3.488 to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.449 for the school year. Every one of Loyola's 18 teams had a GPA of 3.0 or better for both the semester and cumulatively, with the volleyball team checking in on top with a cumulative 3.673 GPA.

Additionally, six Loyola teams were in the top-10 percentile of their respective sports in the most recent multiyear tracking of the Academic Progress Rate (APR): men's basketball, men's golf, men's tennis, women's cross country, women's tennis, and women's track and field.

Striking Gold in San Diego

Charley Toomey, '90, added a gold medal to his trophy shelf this summer, earned as an assistant coach for the USA Men's National Team at the 2023 World Lacrosse Championships, held in San Diego.

Toomey, who recently completed his 18th season as the Greyhounds' head coach, has led Loyola to a 177-93 record since leading the men's lacrosse program. A former Loyola goalkeeper and All-American, Toomey was named to the Team USA coaching staff in 2020 and has been a part of the group that selected and led the team to the gold.

Three other Greyhounds also competed in the World Championships. **Matt Heuston**, a 2023 graduate who will return for his final year of eligibility while pursuing his master's degree in 2023-24, was a midfielder for the Australian team, and **Ryan Fournier, '17**, played for the Latvian team. **Cam Wyers**, who graduated in 2022 and played his final season at Loyola in 2023, was a key defensive player for Canada's silver medal-winning team.



HOW *CHAMPIONS* ARE MADE

LOYOLA'S WINNINGEST WOMEN'S
LACROSSE COACH BRINGS STRENGTH,
PASSION TO THE PROGRAM

BY PATRICK STEVENS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LARRY FRENCH



STRONG TRUTHS
WELL LIVED

Jen Adams' impact on Loyola almost never happened. The Greyhounds were seeking a new women's lacrosse coach in 2008. Adams, less than a decade removed from a dominant college career at the University of Maryland, was an assistant coach at her *alma mater*. When Loyola reached out to gauge her interest, her first instinct was simple: Thanks, but no thanks.

Then-athletic director **Joe Boylan** and associate athletic director **Teddi Burns, '86**, persisted. They cajoled her to make the short drive to the Evergreen campus. They promised that if she wasn't interested, they wouldn't call her again. They hoped the chance to see what Loyola was about would only pique her curiosity.

They were right—especially after she left a room where she met several of Loyola's players.

"People always talk about this gut feeling. I walked out of that room, and that was the aha moment for me, where I was walking down the hall and Teddi Burns and I were walking together, and we heard the room erupt and start cheering. And she said 'You've got to come here. This is the place for you,'"



Adams says. "The rest is history."

The history includes 15 seasons, a University-record 209 victories, 11 NCAA tournament appearances, eight conference tournament titles, and a 75-0 regular-season record against Patriot League opponents. This season Adams led the team to another Patriot League Championship and to the NCAA quarterfinals—and became Loyola's winningest women's lacrosse coach along the way.

Those are merely numbers. They don't reflect how seamlessly she fits with the campus community.

"The more she learned about the Jesuit mission and values, I think it aligned with her values," Burns says. "I think that's when she started to think 'Wow, this is something I could do.' The potential is there to be successful on the field—and what we do as a university aligns with who she is as a person."

There are several parts of that foundation. Burns says when she does exit interviews with graduating seniors, she routinely hears about how much Adams values them as people and encourages them to participate in activities beyond lacrosse.

Some of it comes from blending lacrosse and other causes. Just this past spring alone, the Greyhounds had games dedicated to Morgan's Message supporting mental health; One Love, a national organization that works toward ending relationship abuse; Parkinson's awareness; Black Lives Matter; and the HEADstrong Foundation, which supports families affected by cancer. The team also brought in youth from Baltimore's Harlem Lacrosse chapter and in turn attended their games.

To Adams, the aim is to create a complete experience that her players would not trade for anything upon

Jen Adams put together arguably the best collegiate lacrosse career of any player in the collegiate ranks during her tenure at University of Maryland from 1998-2001. On an international level, the Brighton, South Australia, native also found much success playing on the Australian National Team.

graduation. "That takes a lot of moving parts," Adams says. "That takes the entire institution. I can trust that they're going to class, and they're getting that from the faculty and the professors and the staff; they're getting that in the general community because of the type of person Loyola attracts."

It doesn't hurt, of course, that she's Jen Adams. A member of multiple halls of fame, she was the three-time national player of the year and ranks No. 3 all-time in career points in Division I.

Taryn VanThof, '15, remembers looking up to Adams since she was a fifth grader attending one of the star player's camps. She would go on to become an All-American midfielder at Loyola from 2011-15, incorporating what she could from one of the sport's legends into her game.

"She is the greatest player of all time," VanThof says. "Getting to then play for her, you got to watch everything she did through her career, and you want to do exactly what she's telling you. You know you want to be the best, and you're learning from the best. It's even more motivating than someone else saying it to you. It's like 'Yeah, I want to be that level, be that caliber, be that kind of player.'"

VanThof's admiration of Adams continued to grow when VanThof decided to pursue coaching, and she interned with Adams and longtime assistant **Dana Dobbie**. For all there is to emulate, perhaps the most significant was a knack to bring the program's players—past and present—together and make them feel important.

Adams, in turn, is quick to credit her predecessors, **Diane Geppi-Aikens, '84**, and **Kerri Johnson, '97**, for establishing the tradition of the Loyola program. But it's clear the unassuming Adams, whom VanThof describes as "the humblest human you will ever meet," has also imprinted her own personality on the Greyhounds over the last decade and a half.

"She's a perfect match," says VanThof, now the head women's lacrosse coach at Arizona State. "When you think about Loyola and the history they've had, what family means, Jen brings that every single day. It's instilled in us. You can tell by the sheer number of student-athletes that

“When you think about Loyola and the history they’ve had, what family means, Jen brings that every single day.”

Taryn VanThof, '15



come back for alumni games, come back to watch games, come back to just be a part of the program.”

The connectedness goes far beyond just players. Burns says there are professors who attend more Loyola road games than she does.

Adams considers it a highlight anytime she opens her email and sees a note from a professor complimenting her for the quality of people in her program. “They don’t need to go out of their way to send a message, but they do,” Adams says.

And there is little sign Adams is slowing down. Loyola is 39-5 over the last two seasons—the most wins in a two-year span in program history—along with a pair of trips to the NCAA quarterfinals. As a player, she was known for her dazzling creativity as she played a role at four national championships. As a coach, she is constantly evolving and learning, doing anything possible to keep things from growing stagnant.

That hasn’t happened yet.

“Diane Geppi-Aikens is often quoted

as saying she was lucky every day—and that’s how we feel with Jen as our coach,” says Burns, remembering Loyola’s late and much-loved head women’s lacrosse coach, a 1984 graduate of Loyola who passed away in 2003. “There have



This past season Jen Adams led the team to another Patriot League Championship, as she became the winningest women’s lacrosse coach in Loyola history.

certainly been many opportunities for Jen to go elsewhere, and I think at the end of the day, she feels that she can be successful here. She’s getting the student-athletes here that she wants to coach and who buy into who we are and want that total experience.”


And therein lies the key to it all: Adams believes it’s a cycle—the people make the place, and the place makes the people—and her greatest job is to keep finding young women who fit what Loyola is all about. The University’s principles, she says, buy into her who, what, and why as a person.

“It is exciting and intriguing when you find the right kind of people—they come in and see it, and I get excited that they’re going to get to experience this and take it with them for the rest of their lives.”

Adams explains she’s even been stopped at the airport by people who’ve seen her players with passersby saying, “I just need to let you know I’ve run into one of your young women, and they’re just exemplary.”

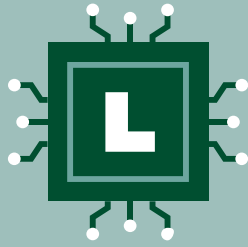
“That’s the stuff that gives you goosebumps as a coach, that you’re doing something right. Forget the wins and losses,” she says. “These are young women who are going to go on and do amazing things.”

Jen Adams values each of her players as people and aims to create a complete experience for them, on and off the lacrosse field.



Although this image of the Humanities Center looks real, the original photo has been altered through the use of artificial intelligence. In the hands of a creative human designer, the sky and trees have been extended, and a pond and greyhound statue were added. AI generation automatically includes the reflection of the distinctive historic building and sky. In the past, altering and enhancing a photo would take hours. Now, a designer can create these images in minutes.

ORIGINAL PHOTO COURTESY OF YOUVISIT /
AI GENERATED PHOTO BY MALIA LEARY



A 500-YEAR-OLD APPROACH TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

LOYOLA FACULTY
AND ALUMNI SHARE
THEIR INSIGHTS INTO
HOW TECHNOLOGY IS
CHANGING THE WORLD

BY MARCUS DEAN AND CLAIRE HOFFMAN, '07

“Ethical conduct and a moral compass are necessary in the field of data science and AI.”

Jessica Wade, M.S., '23

Since the launch of ChatGPT in November 2022, the artificial intelligence chatbot seems to be making headlines everywhere. Academics are concerned—and thrilled—about the rise of AI and its potential for the future of higher education.

The Jesuit approach to education, including intellectual excellence, critical understanding, and a constant challenge to improve, positions Loyola faculty, students, and alumni to use technology responsibly and to create positive change in our world. But naturally, with new technology comes many questions: How advanced is AI—and where is it heading next? How can AI help students in the classroom? How can universities ensure students continue to approach learning with academic integrity?

Faculty, administrators, and students at Loyola are deep in conversation about the opportunities and challenges that AI presents. And Loyola alumni bring a depth and breadth of understanding to a topic that is changing business, education, and society.

AI in the World

For many Loyola alumni working in technology, the rise of artificial intelligence has been met with cautious optimism, a Jesuit openness to discovering new possibilities.

An early adopter of the tech was **Peter Guerra**, head of Data and AI Service Line at Microsoft, who received his MBA from Loyola with an Information Systems concentration in 2014. In his current role, Guerra helps companies and public sector customers build AI solutions to their hardest challenges. He's been using AI for almost 20 years.

“With the recent advances, we are working with customers to drive many new solutions that weren't possible just five years ago,” he says. “It's an exciting time to be in the field.”

But, Guerra notes, AI is currently in its “hype cycle,” and he advises responsible AI review boards, carefully considered processes, and rigorous testing.

“These aren't solutions that work right out of the box, so to speak; they require a lot of planning and testing before being launched,” he notes. “AI will never replace human creativity and ingenuity. AI is a tool we will leverage to tell us the ‘what,’ but I believe it will only ever be an augmentation for the ‘so what’ and ‘now what.’”

As founder of LivePerson, **Robert LoCascio, '90**, has also been focused on AI for years. In 1997, he was a pioneer in creating webchats to improve the customer experience—which ultimately grew into his company that uses technology to help brands hold conversations with their customers.

“In the world today, AI is the next big leg of giving humanity back time,” said LoCascio, who graduated from Loyola with a Bachelor of Business Administration and a minor in English literature.

“AI is one of the highest forms of augmenting a human in thought—a machine can do these tasks that can be fairly complex, and a machine can even connect with a human.” Although AI hasn't figured out how to replicate consciousness, LoCascio says, it provides reasoning as an outcome based on information provided to it.

The father of three envisions a future for his young children where AI really gives them back time in their lives. “My kids will definitely have something they own and control in their life that helps them solve problems, and it will be very personalized,” he says.

Recognizing some of the challenges that need to be overcome, he co-created EqualAI, which focuses on how to create safe and secure AI that operates without unconscious bias. Looking to the future, LoCascio sees tremendous opportunity for AI in health care, saving lives and meeting human needs with advanced technology.

Another Loyola graduate who's optimistic about AI's possibilities is **Jessica Wade**, who received her M.S. in Data Science in 2023. She's currently working in information systems for Google and seeking a full-time role in the data science field.

“I truly desire to be the change we wish to see in the world, and by taking

retroactive data to predict future trends, lives could possibly be saved,” she explains. And while she’s enthusiastic about the possibilities of AI, she agrees that it will never replace human emotional intelligence. “Ethical conduct and a moral compass are necessary in the field of data science and AI.”

AI in the Classroom

At Loyola, ethics are top priority. Rather than worrying about students using AI to write their next paper, however, **Dobin Yim, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of information systems, is embracing the new technology.

“I am incorporating ChatGPT as much as possible this fall semester and making it a requirement for students to use,” Yim says. “I don’t want to just teach students how to memorize things. I want to teach them how to use the knowledge and technology.”

Yim believes ChatGPT could change how higher education professors dispense and assess knowledge. Instead of making predictions about where this technology might go in years to come, however, the answers could be in the past. In the 1960s, for example, inquiry-based learning became popular when discovery learning models emerged.

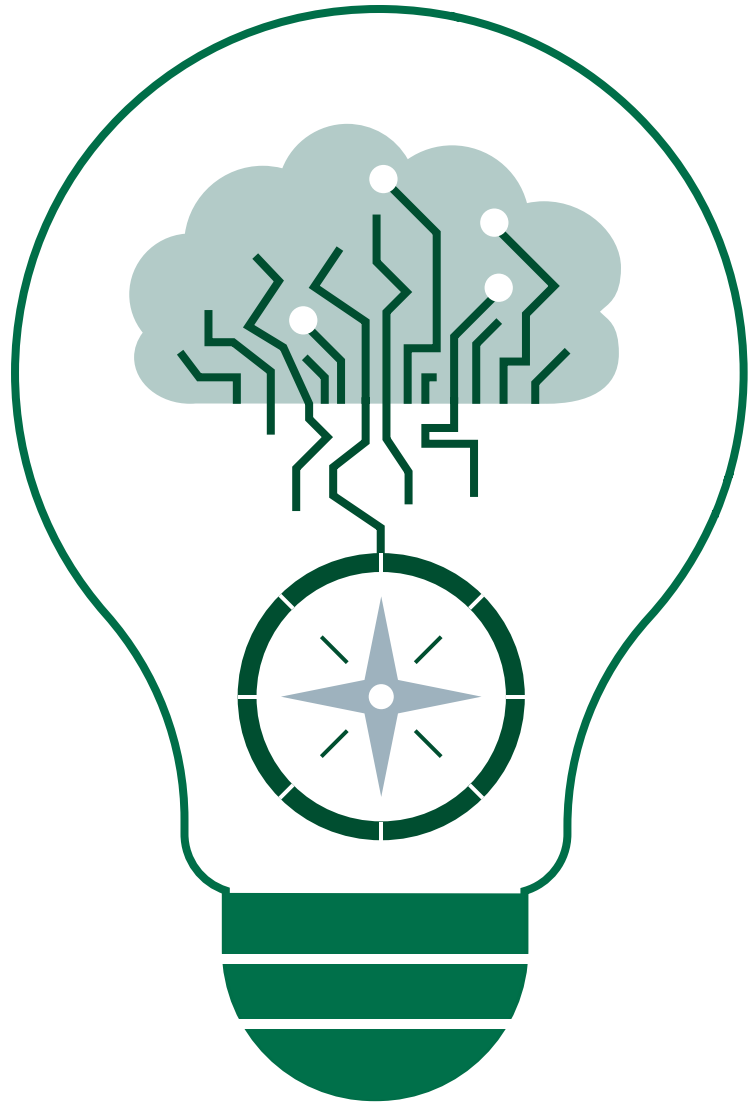
The learning style focuses on educating students by posing questions or scenarios.

“By learning how to transition from basic inquiries to constructing coherent series of structured questions, students will naturally develop a deeper interest and expertise in the subject matter, eventually leading them to create their own comprehensive sets of questions and answers,” Yim says.

Yim is not alone in his ideology about AI in higher education.

An Everyday Classroom Tool

The Society of Jesus has long been open to embracing new tools that allow for the transformational education they’ve been offering for centuries. There’s a reason that there are 34 craters on the moon named for Jesuits. **Paul Tallon, Ph.D.**, professor of information systems and chair of the Information Systems, Law,



and Operations department in Sellinger, agrees that leaning into ChatGPT and generative AI will benefit everyone as it becomes an everyday tool.

“If we’re not teaching AI, then we’re doing Loyola students a disservice because it touches every discipline,” Tallon says. “We will depend on it in the future, and we won’t be able to do our required daily jobs without it.”

To help preserve academic integrity in the classroom, Tallon uses AI to create assignments that AI itself would not be able to answer. He views it as a teaching tool that exists to help students, not hinder them.

“Similar to calculators in today’s society, just because you have one in math class doesn’t mean you have all the answers.

Students still need to use the correct prompts to get the right answers,” Tallon explains.

Navigating AI Challenges

While AI and ChatGPT have received praise from many in higher education, some say student accessibility might need to be addressed. **Janine Holc, Ph.D.**, professor of political science, feels AI is too easy for students to use.

“AI is an open platform—easily accessible on any device—and generates an answer almost immediately,” Holc says. “AI is not a tool for the unprepared student—but even prepared students are defaulting to it.” She plans to ask students to put their devices away and do more



ORIGINAL PHOTO AND AI GENERATED PHOTO BY MALIA LEARY

Original photograph of Iggy at an accepted student open house.



This issue's cover photo and the photo of Iggy at the beach were created using Photoshop Beta, which allows users to test AI Generative Fill tools. The designer was able to select portions of the photo and enter text prompts (e.g. "blue sky" and "fountain") to change the photo. As you see, Iggy doesn't even need to leave the Evergreen campus to find himself enjoying a sunny day on the beach.

"We will depend on (AI) in the future, and we won't be able to do our required daily jobs without it."

Paul Tallon, Ph.D., professor of information systems and chair of the Information Systems, Law, and Operations department

in-class writing, individually and in pairs or groups, using pens and pencils.

"The issue I am really concerned about is the confidence students have in their own processes and what they come up with on their own," Holc says. "AI is displacing a student's own voice and process of developing their own voice. This is happening even when students are engaged and eager to learn."

That commitment to helping students find their own voice and being able to think critically and communicate clearly is an essential component of a Jesuit, liberal arts education.

Masudul Biswas, Ph.D., agrees that AI cannot replace writing and editing skills or critical thinking. The professor of communication and department chair says it can be used to generate ideas quickly, but a human should verify the content before submitting anywhere.

Greg Hoplamazian, Ph.D., associate professor of communication, seconds that generated content is imperfect. "Being aware of legal and ethical uses of the content that is generated as well as common errors that tend to get made are important as you use these tools," Hoplamazian says.

What's Next?

Being cautious and aware doesn't prevent embracing new technology, however. At the Loyola/Notre Dame Library, Library Director **Katy O'Neill** says she and colleagues in libraries across the country have started using AI to assist with processes like grant application development.

"Libraries have been adapting to emerging technologies for decades to bring information and access to technologies to users with a commitment to doing so

“In the future, identifying ourselves by what we know is going to become outdated, we’ll have to identify ourselves as continuously learning. We’ve always thought about education and learning as transferring knowledge, but knowledge without meaning is no use.”

Joseph Ganem, Ph.D., professor of physics and department chair

anchored in professional values around privacy, accessibility, intellectual freedom, and lifelong learning,” O’Neill says.

Artificial intelligence could very well change our understanding of learning and knowledge. **Joseph Ganem, Ph.D.**, professor of physics and department chair, who wrote a book, *Understanding the Impact of Machine Learning on Labor and Education*, sees that AI is changing how people around the world view education.

“In the future, identifying ourselves by what we know is going to become outdated, we’ll have to identify ourselves as continuously learning,” Ganem says. “We’ve always thought about education and learning as transferring knowledge, but knowledge without meaning is no use.”

The Human Element

One Greyhound who has been a bit slower to adopt artificial intelligence is **Peter V. Stanton**, CEO of Stanton Communications, who handles public relations, crisis management, and more for the leaders of major corporations, nonprofits, and industry associations.

Stanton—who received his B.A. in Psychology from Loyola in 1974 and his M.S. in Counseling Psychology in 1979—calls himself “something of a technology Luddite” but does see members of his firm starting to lean into the technology.

“My far more tech-savvy colleagues tell me AI will greatly benefit their ability to conduct research related to client interests and industries, translate into lay English complex issues and technologies, and stimulate thinking about how we

may articulate messages and positions of importance for our clients.”

A lot of Stanton’s work involves writing, from messaging documents to byline articles for his clients—and he emphasizes the importance of not depending too much on text-based AI programs like ChatGPT, which can veer toward plagiarism. He also notes that artificial intelligence can’t provide the critical thinking and interpretation services that his firm specializes in.

“We personally engage with subject-matter experts, people who have dedicated their careers to a focus on a specific field of inquiry or practice. We talk to them. We listen. We learn constantly. With their wisdom and perspectives, we are not only able to advise our clients—we are able to explain why our advice is supportable and prudent,” he explains.

“I am unaware that AI can provide this uniquely human intelligence.” He continues, “I would say we are in the business of the application of genuine intelligence. The other is called ‘artificial’ for a reason.”

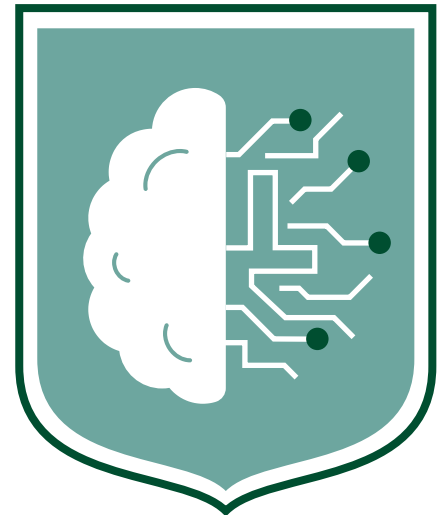
Meanwhile, **Todd Marks**, who graduated in 1998 with a degree in mathematics and currently serves as president and CEO of digital agency Mindgrub, spends a significant portion of his time focused on AI, cloud, and AR/VR services. Unlike Stanton, he’s excited about AI’s ability to automate content—from Requests for Proposals to marketing communications—along with website chatbots, e-commerce recommendation engines, and custom data search.

“Internally, we are using AI for our own marketing as well as for paid programming,” he adds. “We love the intersection of human capital and AI.”

But Marks also advises AI adopters to be cautious. “AI occasionally exhibits hallucinatory behavior, generating fictional content that it perceives as factual,” he notes, adding: “AI still faces challenges stemming from flawed data inputs, lack of transparency, and certain security risks, particularly in sectors such as transportation and health care.”

Overall, though, he’s excited about the advancements—as long as the human element remains—especially as he reflects on his Jesuit, liberal arts education and the emphasis on caring for each individual, and the community at large.

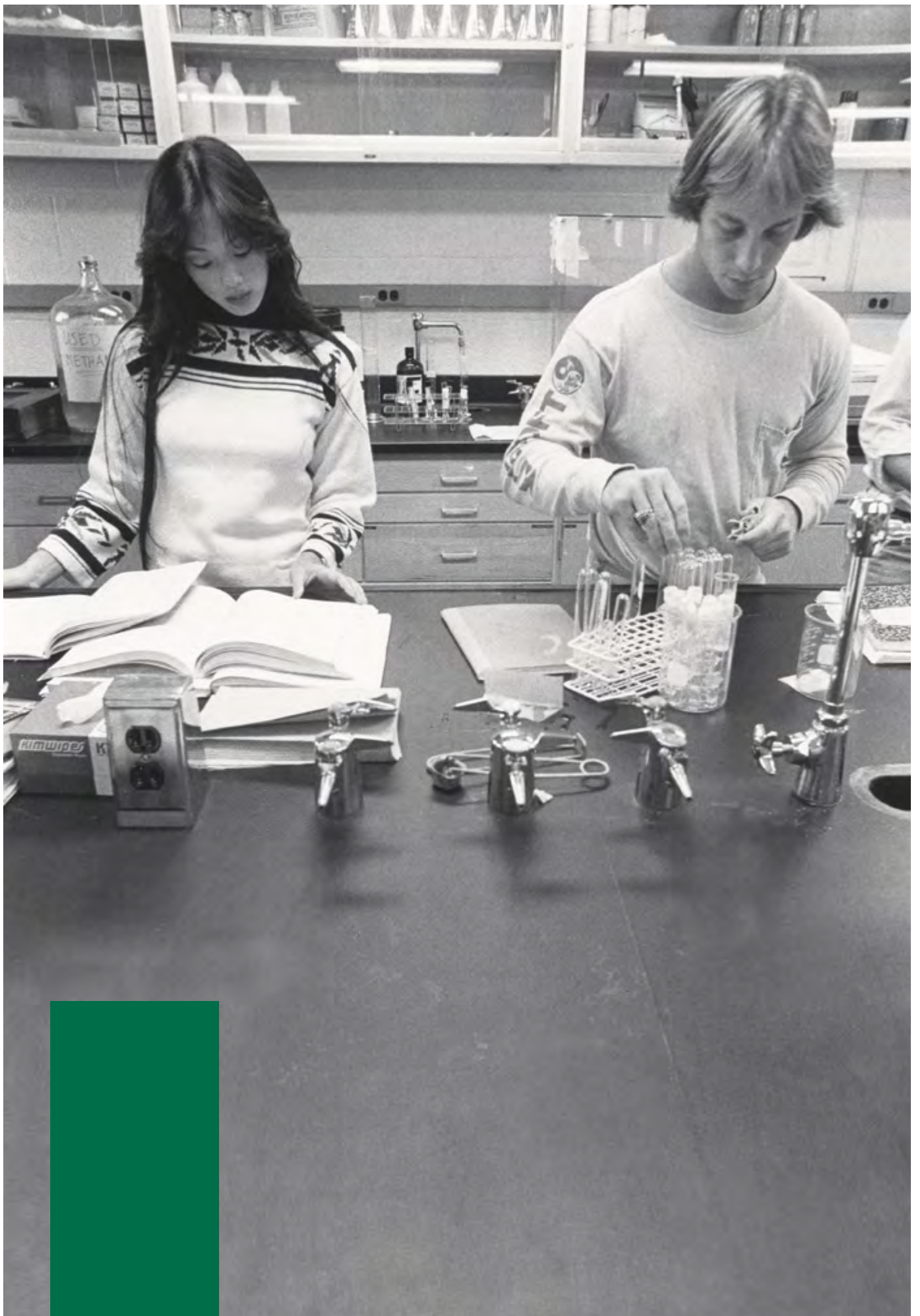
“I believe Loyola alumni have a love for humanity and will serve as good shepherds for preserving that humanity as the world becomes more automated and digital.”



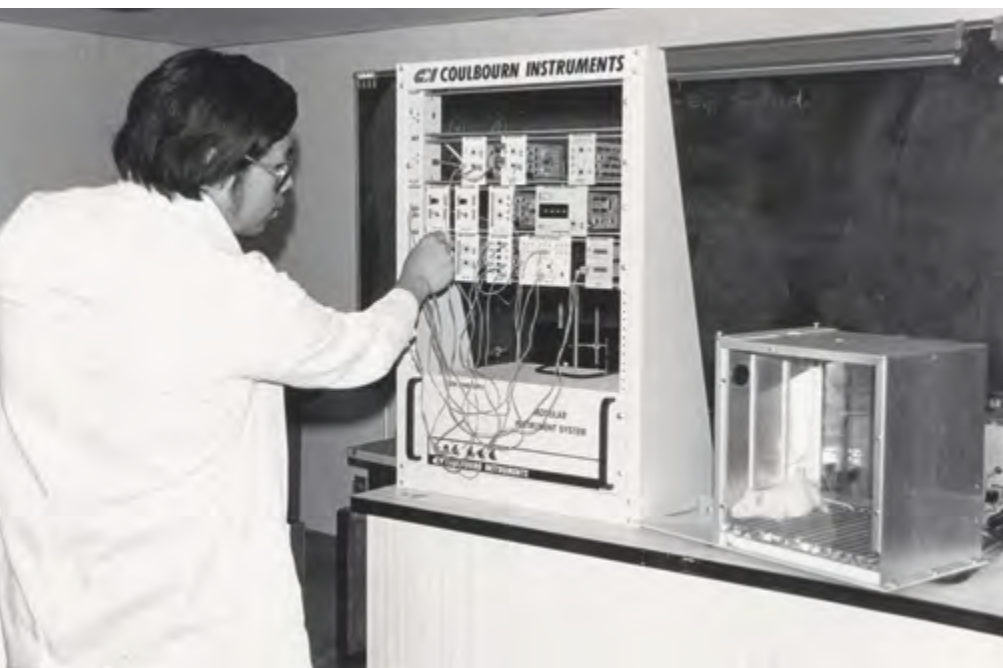
Loyola introduced the first instance of Amazon’s Just Walk Out (JWO) technology on a college campus in Maryland in August, located in Bowman Express. JWO features Generative AI and other technologies to create a checkout line-free experience for shoppers.

Learn more about JWO at Loyola.





PHOTOS DATED CIRCA LATE 1970S/EARLY 1980S / COURTESY LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY



VINTAGE

1978 DONNELLY SCIENCE CENTER OPENS

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

When the new state-of-the-art Donnelly Science Center opened its doors in 1978 on the Evergreen campus, the facility was met with rave reviews.

“At night it’s an absolutely stunning sight coming up Charles Street,” **F. Xavier Spiegel, ’61**, then-professor of physics and engineering, told the *Greyhound* student newspaper at the time.

For nearly 50 years, Donnelly has provided the backdrop for Loyola’s Jesuit approach to science—and Loyola students have continued to benefit from the University’s investment in its science programs and facilities.

In part by maximizing the use of Donnelly’s well-equipped laboratories, **Robert Pond, Ph.D.**, has been able to empower his students to discover the latest in engineering during his wide-ranging, 25-year career as a Loyola faculty member. The labs, for example, have supported Pond’s capstone and senior design students as they developed an array of systems, from helping elephants exercise at the Maryland Zoo to providing liquid feeding for people with motor and nerve impairments.

“Loyola’s humanities core curriculum along with rigorous mathematics, science, and technology studies yield engineering graduates who continue to learn and care for all peoples and the natural world,” Pond says.

Twelve years ago, Donnelly underwent a renovation that included a 15,000-square-foot expansion featuring new laboratory spaces, a conference room, microscopy center, robotics laboratory, and more for the departments of biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, and engineering. Now, Loyola is preparing to start an extensive renovation of Donnelly to offer enhanced and additional research and learning spaces. Plans are still coming together for the project, which is scheduled to begin in 2024.

Family

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ALUMNI PROFILE

GOOD MORNING, LOYOLA

2015 GRADUATE IS MAKING NATIONAL NEWS HEADLINES

BY MARCUS DEAN

When **Dom Proto, '15**, stepped onto Loyola's campus for the first time, he knew it was the place for him. "It just felt right," says the Branford, Connecticut, native, who instantly fell in love with the community, the people on the Quad, and above all, the dorms. He also jokes that the 70-degree February day helped seal the deal.

"Coincidentally, I flew to Ohio to see my top choice. When we drove to that campus, we didn't even get out of the car. I said to my dad, 'I'm going to Loyola,'" Proto remembers.

These days, you might catch Proto's name on the byline of the latest *Good Morning America* (GMA) story. For the last five years, he's been a producer at GMA, covering a little bit of everything—from Category 5 hurricanes to celebrity news and much more.

It's led him to work with popular names such as Garth Brooks, Chip and Joanna Gaines, Ellen Pompeo, Josh Peck, and members from *The Bachelor* franchise and *Dancing with the Stars*.

"The theme is always the same: Share their story with heart, with truth, and make the viewer at home understand the gravity of why those people are on our platform," he says.

Proto, who majored in communication with specializations in journalism and advertising/public relations, says when he was younger, he entertained the idea of possibly becoming a doctor or working in business. But he found his passion for storytelling one day in


the early 2000s, during the U.S. war in Afghanistan. After watching the hunt for Osama Bin Laden unfolding live on TV at home, a 9-year-old Proto pretended to be a news anchor reporting on the event. He used his bed as an anchor desk and pretended to be one of the local reporters at his hometown news station.

Years later, the variety of academic media opportunities he encountered at Loyola returned him to that youthful place. "Loyola offered a radio station and a television station that I could get involved in, and that brought back memories of the Dom from 2002," Proto says.

Loyola put him on the right track, so much so that just a few months after graduating, Proto landed an internship at ABC News. The opportunity developed into a full-time role as a digital news associate. For three years at ABC News, he answered phones, found stories to pitch, and relentlessly booked travel for field producers and correspondents.

Slowly but surely, he discovered more opportunities to delve deeper into journalism. He began field producing live shots on his own, writing articles to be published on abcnews.com, and covering larger stories like the 2018 Volcán de Fuego eruption in Guatemala. His early opportunity at ABC News helped hone the skills he uses for his producing role at GMA today.

As exciting as it is to tell stories of celebrities and top news, Proto still looks back fondly at his time at Loyola and carries with him the motivation to make an impact.

"I love that I can share people's stories," he says. "With my job, any time I feature a hometown hero or a small business in America that gives them a platform to shine, it feels like a way to give back." 

Investing in the Future

Rebecca Lange-Thernes, M.Ed. '91, teaches middle schoolers about long-term financial impact

BY RITA BUETTNER



When she came to Loyola to earn her master's degree as a middle school teacher, **Rebecca Lange-Thernes** wasn't thinking much about the fact that she would receive a Jesuit education.

Years later, as her career took her into relief and development working for Lutheran World Relief, she traveled around the world, leading study tours in Africa, Asia, and South America and designing educational activities related to topics such as AIDS and world hunger.

"We worked with grassroots organizations, and some of the projects were Jesuit-driven," she says. "That was part of my foundation, and here I was finding it in other regions in the world."

LOYOLA.EDU/PLANNEDGIVING

Learn more about making a planned gift to Loyola.



Today Lange-Thernes is executive director of Stocks in the Future, a Baltimore-based program that offers underserved middle school students personal finance skills.

"We show students that going to school and doing the best that you can is a way of investing in yourself," she says.

Along the way, Lange-Thernes also reconnected with her *alma mater* and now serves as chair of the Board of Advisors for Loyola's School of Education. She and her husband, Mark, decided to make a planned gift to Loyola to create an endowed fund that provides scholarships.

"I see that Loyola is a smart, mature community," she says, "and I really enjoy it in so many ways."

COURTESY OF REBECCA LANGE-THERNES, M.ED. '91

ALUMNI PROFILE

CHAMPIONING SUSTAINABILITY

ALISON WHRITENOUR, '04, LEANS INTO EMPATHETIC, FORWARD-THINKING LEADERSHIP AS CEO OF SEVENTH GENERATION

BY MARCUS DEAN

Alison Whritenour, '04, has followed a winding road on her career journey, pursuing ideas and interests she's passionate about, and finding companies that bring them to life. After working in several advertising and marketing roles, she decided to accept a position with a company whose mission spoke to her: Seventh Generation.

Seventh Generation, which sells eco-friendly cleaning, paper, and personal care products, is on a mission to transform the planet into a healthy, sustainable, and equitable place for the next seven generations. Owned by Unilever, the company uses recycled materials in its packaging as well as biodegradable, plant-based, phosphate-free, and chlorine-free ingredients in its products.

"As a company, we have a foundational belief that you can't live a healthy life on a sick planet—and this is something that drives me personally as well," says Whritenour, who has served as chief executive officer since 2021.

"My passion for using business as a force for good keeps me engaged and challenged."

Leading with Passion

As CEO, Whritenour aims to lead with empathy, transparency, vision, and clarity—and to encourage younger generations to embrace opportunities.

"I have tried to answer every opportunity as 'yes' instead of 'no' or 'this is why I can't do this,'" she explains. "It has put me into the deep end of situations—but I've always been able to swim my way



to the top again by believing that I am capable and that anything is possible."

Whritenour, who graduated from Loyola with a B.A. in Communication and a minor in creative writing, joined Seventh Generation 11 years ago. She began as a sales team lead and worked her way up through the ranks and various divisions, including as brand manager, director of brand marketing, and head of customer development.

Through each of her roles, she has embraced its philosophy fully and growing in her understanding of how Seventh Generation operates.

"I have been able to learn deeply about sustainable solutions, the role that business can play in influencing change agendas, and the compelling data that shows what limited time we have left to make a radical impact to improve our climate trajectory," she says. "You really start to think about the world you are leaving for your children and your children's children."

Community is Key

Whritenour grew up in Glen Rock, New Jersey, before coming to Loyola.

"I benefited from the requirements to take classes outside my major—and within my major, I learned the crucial skills of strong written and verbal communication skills, the art of marketing and advertising, and the ability to bring creativity into everything that I do," she says. "My job requires me to move between very diverse topics quickly and with some grace for my employees. My Loyola education helped prepare me to do this well."

In her personal and professional life, the mother of three also tries to advocate for working mothers.

"Through my lived experience trying to juggle all of it, I've learned that I really need the advice and role modeling of other women in my shoes," she says. "Working mothers are only going to be successful in staying in the workforce and building our careers if we have a safety net to fall back on. Women need to play this role for one another in a massive way." **L**

Family Bound by Hounds



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SOPHIE'S SPECIAL STORY

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST
AND 2016 GRAD AUTHORS
CHILDREN'S BOOK TO PROMOTE
COMMUNICATION SKILLS

BY BRIGID HAMILTON, '06, M.A. '17

As a child growing up in West Harrison, New York, **Gabriella Gizzo, '16, M.S., CCC-SLP**, knew that she wanted to be a speech-language pathologist. She chose Loyola to pursue her B.S. in Speech-Language-Hearing Sciences, and today she serves elementary students in the Hartford, Connecticut, school district.

How did the idea of *Sophie's Special Story* come to be?

The purpose of this book was to creatively target speech and language goals through Sophie's experiences. This book is about the special bond between an owner and her dog, Sophie—based on me and my dog that I've had since graduate school. Sophie proved a perfect protagonist for my story. The storyline details Sophie's adventures and her development.

In real life, Sophie loves to meet and interact with new people. She enjoys peanut butter and bacon, her two daily walks, and playing tug-of-war with her rope toys.

What inspired you to write a children's book?

Speech therapists need resources that can target many goals, because when we see students in groups, the individual students have different goals. One of the ways you can target many goals is with books, and so I wrote *Sophie's Special Story* with the hopes that it would reach as many children as possible—and so that educators, parents, and other speech therapists would have access to a fun and creative way to target communication goals.

Can you share your methodology in writing *Sophie's Special Story*?

Research shows the connection between language and literacy. Many of my students struggle in both areas, and it directly impacts



their classroom performance. That's why it is so important to practice these skills.

I love that my book can be used to target many different articulation and language goals, such as answering questions, expanding phrases or sentence structure, labeling objects, and producing certain words and clusters. These goals are important for young children because they are the foundation for language and literacy skills.

What's your favorite thing about your work as a speech-language pathologist?

Everyone deserves the right to communicate. I love working with children because it's so rewarding. I couldn't see myself doing anything else.

What do you remember most about your time at Loyola?

My time at Loyola was truly one of growth and transformation. I was introverted and unsure of myself when I arrived at Loyola; I had never left my small hometown in New York. By senior year, my confidence had increased, and I was my own self-advocate. I didn't know it at the time, but while I was getting an education in helping others communicate and find their voice, I was also finding mine. 📍

OTHER LOYOLA AUTHORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Health in the Highlands: Indigenous Healing and Scientific Medicine in Guatemala and Ecuador,
Author: **David Carey, Ph.D.**,
Doehler Chair in History

International Financial Management, Co-Author:
Tuugi Chuluun, Ph.D., CFA,
professor of finance

More Than Words: Communications Practices of Courageous Leaders,
Author: **Carrie Fox, '01**

Understanding the Impact of Machine Learning on Labor and Education: A Time-Dependent Turing Test, Author: **Joseph Ganem, Ph.D.**, professor of physics

Dig In: Outdoor STEM Learning with Young Children, Co-author:
Jenny James, M.A. '22

Handbook of Multi-level Climate Actions: Sparking and Sustaining Transformative Approaches,
Co-author: **Patricia Kanashiro, Ph.D.**, visiting scholar of sustainability management

Stop Waiting for Perfect: Step Out of Your Comfort Zone and into Your Power, Author: **L'Oreal Thompson Payton, '08**

Crafting the Future of International Higher Education in Asia via Systems Change and Innovation: Reimagining New Modes of Cooperation in the Post Pandemic,
Co-Editor: **Joshua Smith, Ph.D.**, professor of teacher education

Let's Look Together: Henri Nouwen as Spiritual Mentor, Author:
Robert J. Wicks, Psy.D., professor emeritus of pastoral counseling

Family Class Notes

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Please send your class notes and photos to alumni@loyola.edu.



Family In Memoriam

1987

6 Charles Stembler (M.Ed. '93) has been named the best principal in the Baltimore region by the *Baltimore Sun*. He has served as principal at Calvert Hall College High School since 2013.

1988

Craig Roswell has been named to the *Daily Record's* 2023 listing of Leaders in Law.

1992

1 Andrew Witte finished the Wellington Marathon in New Zealand on June 25, 2023. It took him 20 years, but he has accomplished his goal of running seven marathons on seven continents.

1993

KellyAnn O'Meara has been named vice president for academic affairs, provost, and dean of Teachers College at Columbia University.

1995

7 William Heiser (M.Ed. '97) has been named chief operating officer for Anne Arundel County Public Schools.

2003

Guy D'Andrea has been named to the 2023 Pennsylvania Super Lawyers list by personal injury law firm Laffey, Bucci & Kent. Fewer than 5% of state's attorneys are recognized as Super Lawyers each year.

2005

3 Jackie Walter and Jim George welcomed their third child and first son, James Michael, Jr., on January 6, 2023.

2007

Jamaal Jones has been selected by *Brickell*

Magazine as one of its Top 20 Professionals under 40 for 2023.

2009

8 Nicole Perone and John Grosso welcomed their first child, Rose Marie Grosso, born on Dec. 12, 2022.

Susan Cesare, M.A., received an Alpha Sigma Nu Magis Medal, awarded to those who embody Jesuit roots in their daily work. Cesare has long been involved in spiritual direction and several programs through Loyola's Office of Mission Integration.

Kimberly Graham earned the designation of Certified Professional Services Marketer. She is among a growing number of professionals to be certified by the Society for Marketing Professional Services.

2010

Erin Roth has been appointed by the Maryland Department of Labor as Assistant Secretary of Division of Workforce Development and Adult Learning.

2011

2 Rodney Parker, M.S., (Ph.D. '17) and his wife, Euland, welcomed a daughter, Elise Marie, on July 8, 2023.

2014

5 Abby Powell and Shane Dybas were married on November 5, 2022, at the Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater, Maryland.

2015

4 Carmela Risquet and Spencer Wolf were married on September 16, 2022, in Sea Cliff, New York.



Charles E. "Ted" Herget, Jr., '62, former Loyola trustee, died March 2, 2023 at age 83. Herget, an insurance and pension planning executive, served on the University's Board of Trustees from 1976-1981 and as chair from 1980-81. He was also a founding member of the Sellinger Board of Sponsors in 1981 and served continuously on that board for several years. Herget, who established an endowed scholarship at Loyola, was awarded the University's prestigious Alumni Laureate Medal in 1985. A Baltimore native, Herget earned his BBA from Loyola in 1962. He founded the Herget Foundation in 1991, which has provided hundreds of scholarships and donations to hospitals, universities, and needs-based organizations. Herget is survived by his wife, Sheila, three daughters, and grandchildren.



Mary Cuba Mangione, MSA '52, died March 15, 2023. She was 92. A recipient of the 2010 President's Medal and a longtime benefactor of Loyola, Mangione graduated from Mount Saint Agnes College before its merger with

Loyola; she was awarded the Mount Award in 2012. Mangione and her late husband, Nicholas, a former Loyola trustee, established the Mangione Family Foundation, which provides philanthropic support and resources to nonprofit organizations in the greater Baltimore area. They funded the acquisition of the Saint John's Bible that is on permanent display at the Loyola/Notre Dame Library. The Mangione Pool at Loyola's Fitness and Aquatic Center also bears the family name. Mangione was an active member of the Baltimore community, serving on several councils in and around the area, such as the Walters Art Museum, American Citizens for Italian Matters, Howard County Tourism Council, and Order of Sons of Italy in America—and as a trustee for the Baltimore Opera Company. Several of her children and grandchildren also graduated from Loyola.



Isabelle Trainor, who worked in the office of undergraduate admission at Loyola for 20 years before she retired, died on June 5, 2023. She was 95. She was predeceased by her husband, **Robert Edward Trainor, '50**, and survived by their two children. Trainor was born and raised in Baltimore. The youngest of six daughters, she attended Blessed Sacrament Parish and

graduated from the Institute of Notre Dame in 1946. Following World War II, she worked in the accounting department for Baltimore's General Motors Plant. She and Robert, director of advertising for the *Baltimore Sun*, were married in 1953 and raised their family together. She lived in their Towson home until her passing. Trainor was thought to be the longest living subscriber to the *Sun*—for 70 years, from 1953 until her death.

Marion Suhorsky, M.Ed. '65, March 2023

Pat Flynn, '66, April 2023

John Dix, '68, February 2023

Bob Triplett, '68, February 2023

Jean Neylon, '71, May 2023

Carol Petrosky, M.Ed. '75, May 2023

Matt McKenna, '79, March 2023

Brenda DeGori, M.Ed. '80, May 2023

John Hennessey, '83, January 2023

Elizabeth Clevenger, '93, April 2023

Joseph Mullaney, '96, May 2023

Andrea Buonincontro, '97, April 2023

Matthew Scott, M.Ed. '01, April 2023

Tyhira Glenn, '11, January 2023

Michael Wortmann, '11, June 2023

Corinne Filograna, '22, May 2023

Clarification: The Spring 2023 issue of *Loyola* listed Robert Barron, '73, as deceased. Sadly, Robert S. Barron, '73, who lived in Timonium, Maryland, passed away in August 2022. Robert Charles Barron, MBA '73, who lives in San Antonio, Texas, is alive and well.

6 INSIGHTS INTO CREATING A LOCALLY SOURCED HOLIDAY MEAL

KEVIN ATTICKS, DCD, '97,
MARYLAND'S SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

Kevin Atticks, DCD, director of Apprentice House Press and affiliate assistant professor of communication, became Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture in February 2023. Atticks came into the role with a wealth of agriculture knowledge as the executive director of the Maryland Wineries Association, the Brewers Association of Maryland, and the Maryland Distillers Guild; and as the founder of Grow & Fortify, a consulting firm that supports value-added agriculture. Atticks, who graduated from Loyola in 1997 with a B.A. in Communication, shares the importance of supporting local agriculture while preparing holiday meals.

TIP 1

Shop Local

No matter where you are celebrating this holiday, you can construct a glorious meal using local ingredients, such as locally raised turkey, or locally grown greens, potatoes, beans, fresh-baked bread, and more.

TIP 2

Pairings Plus

The reputation of the holiday meal is that of a centerpiece turkey and a half dozen sides. Given the cacophony of flavors, wine pairings can be complicated, so I often opt for multiple offerings to match.

TIP 3

Support Your Community

Simply through the act of choosing to purchase regional products, you are investing your dollars in your surrounding community. Plus, a local shopping list drastically reduces the environmental impact of your shopping.

TIP 4

Go Direct

If you are lucky, you have local retailers that wholeheartedly support nearby farms and producers. That said, it's best to go directly to the farmers or producers, so that your support can have the greatest impact. Search online for seasonal products or visit a nearby farmers' market, which should run through Thanksgiving.

TIP 5

Menu Tweaks

A commitment to buying local does—in some sense—take us back to the days of old, where we might walk to the local market to see what is in season. Might there be compromises? Of course. You might not be in a cranberry-growing region or able to source celery root for grandma's special soup.

TIP 6

Giving Thanks

Any step you take toward buying local provides valuable support to your area's economy. It's an opportunity to give thanks to those who have dedicated their lives and careers to serving and feeding the community.

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In real life, the USF&G Pedestrian Bridge extends across North Charles Street, crossed by hundreds of Loyola students and faculty each day on their way to and from classes, dining, clubs and activities, and student residence halls. Unlike our cover image, this photo has not been enhanced with any AI generative fill tools.

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