LOYOLA

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND MAGAZINE

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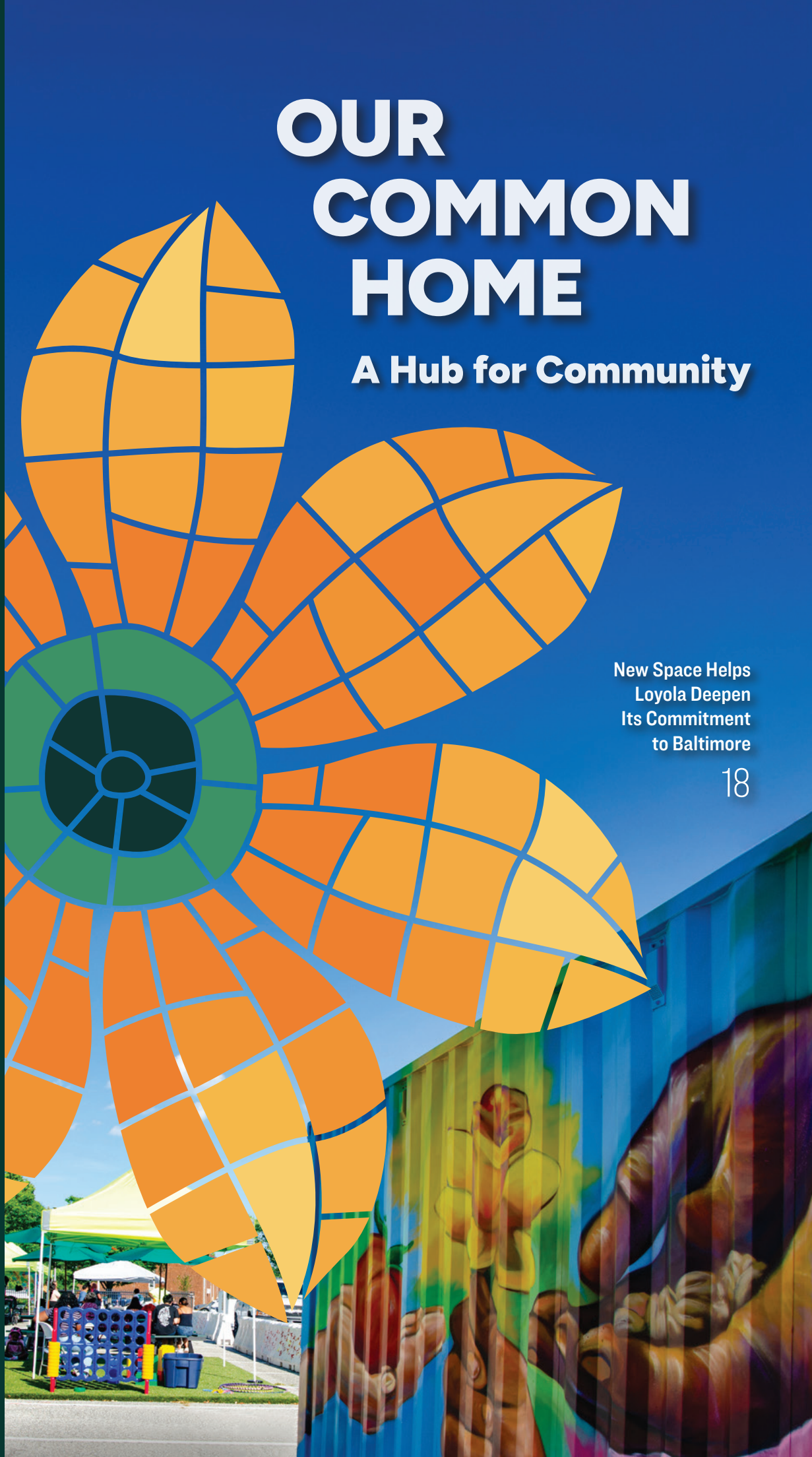
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MALIA LEARY



MOVED TO BE MORE

LOYOLA LAUNCHES REFRESHED BRAND

BY RITA BUETTNER, M.A. '24

Look around campus this fall and you'll see signs of Loyola Maryland's refreshed institutional brand. But the changes extend beyond the Evergreen campus, from publications to digital communications and social media. The new approach reflects the University's mission, momentum, and vision for the future.

The refresh introduces "Moved To Be More," a new marketing campaign that conveys Loyola's transformative educational experience. Inspired by the Jesuit concept of the *magis*—the call to seek "the more" in learning, leadership, and service—the campaign also carries a connection to Baltimore.

"The brand refresh reflects Loyola's rich history, current energy, and future direction," said **Kristen Campbell McGuire**, chief marketing officer. "It builds on our strong reputation, celebrates what makes us distinctive, and gives us a compelling way to share our story with prospective and current students, families, alumni, employees, and the broader community."

Loyola partnered with Mission, a Baltimore-based advertising agency, to refresh and amplify its brand identity in alignment with the institution's strategic plan, *Together We Rise,* which launched in 2024.

LOYOLA.EDU/BRAND

Check out Loyola Maryland's new brand.

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

When I first started working at Loyola 28 years ago, part of my role was to strengthen our relationship with our neighbors. We were involved in some challenging conversations as we worked to build bridges, listen to the hopes and dreams of area residents, and figure out how we could work together to apply our ideas, skills, and resources to partner and strengthen our community.

Over the years, those conversations have continued, even as I've moved into new roles—including my current position as the 25th president of Loyola. I've had the pleasure of watching Loyola evolve in how we support and accompany our neighbors. Our most recent enhancements to the Loyola Community Center at 5104 York Road demonstrate our commitment to the communities along York Road. But they also highlight the state and federal recognition of the work we are all involved in together. This partnership has become a national model for place-based justice, and we are honored to walk with our neighbors in strengthening Baltimore.

What an exciting time to be at Loyola. Since we launched our strategic plan, *Together We Rise,* in 2024, we have challenged ourselves to grow and stretch and achieve more—for us and for the greater glory of God. And you can see the impact.

It's the perfect moment to introduce our refreshed brand campaign, Moved To Be More, which reflects all we've done and all we hope to do in the future. It captures the strength of our community, the momentum of our strategic plan, and our ongoing commitment to preparing graduates who are ready to lead meaningful lives and make a difference in the world.

In this issue, you'll learn more about the latest news from Loyola, including how we are preparing our graduates through new academic programs as we remain committed to our identity and mission as a Jesuit, liberal arts university. You'll also meet some of our alumni who are making a difference in their communities.

I hope that your Loyola education also inspires you and that you feel Moved To Be More. We are so proud of all we are achieving here on the Evergreen campus, in Baltimore, and—thanks to you—throughout the world.

God bless and go Hounds.



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





LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND MAGAZINE

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COVER:
The new Loyola Community Center on York Road offers space for connection and collaboration; it also features a vibrant mural by LaToya Peoples.
PHOTO BY MALIA LEARY
ILLUSTRATION BY LOUIS UMERLIK, '96

LEFT:
President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., and his wife, Courtney Sawyer, M.S. '93, greet students as they move in for the Fall 2026 semester.

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NEWS FROM LOYOLA

FREE TAX PREP, EXTRA HOPE

LOYOLA STUDENTS GAIN LIFELONG SKILLS WHILE PREPARING FREE TAX RETURNS

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN AND ANDREW ALDRICH

"Through VITA, I became so passionate about the tax services we provide to our community that I plan to continue volunteering at Loyola's VITA site in the future."

Edward Baddour, '25, MAcc '26

Kacey Pupo, '26, was majoring in information systems and data analytics when she started volunteering with Loyola's Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) program in January 2024. That experience helping prepare tax returns for qualified individuals was so important to her that she decided to add a second major in accounting—and pursue a career in tax work. After serving as a VITA site director this past season, she accepted a position as a tax associate at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

It's not an unusual story for VITA. Student volunteers often cite that they find meaning and insights into their career paths after working with low- to moderate-income residents.

The students' service has a dramatic impact—both on the students as volunteers and on the Baltimore residents they support. This past tax season, Loyola student volunteers prepared 1,101 tax returns free of charge for qualifying taxpayers in Baltimore, resulting in $1.95 million tax refunds. This was the eighth year Loyola hosted a Volunteer Income Tax Assistant (VITA) program site at the Loyola Clinical Centers at Belvedere Square in Baltimore.

The program has grown steadily since the pandemic and started doubling every year once **Michael W. Bender**, executive in residence of accounting, took the lead in 2021. The program was named an IRS VITA Superior Winner last year by the Beta Alpha Psi honor society for preparing a high number of tax returns and high student participation.

"What we do matters," said Bender, who credits this work as the most meaningful of his more than 40-year career in public accounting. "It's a fabulous service for the community, and students get real life experience in taxes and working with people and exposure to things they wouldn't otherwise."







ASHLEY MORALES, '27

From top to bottom: The VITA leadership team visited Grant Thornton and RSM firms; more than 265 student volunteers prepared to assist with tax preparation for the Baltimore community; and the VITA team serves a pancake breakfast to thank volunteers.



Loyola invites students from any major to participate as long as they go through the training, pass an IRS-sanctioned exam, and commit to volunteering for at least five evening and Saturday sessions.

This season more than 265 IRS-certified students—from first-year to graduate students—volunteered in partnership with two dozen professional volunteers and the nonprofit, Creating Assets, Savings and Hope (CASH) Campaign of Maryland.

"This growth only happens because we've got an enthusiastic, innovative leader in Mike Bender; a set of exceptionally generous and motivated students, professionals, and community partners; and the infrastructure to make this all work," said **JP Krahel, Ph.D.**, chair of accounting, who first invited Loyola students to volunteer at other CASH locations, in 2014, before the University became a host.

LOYOLA.EDU/GO/VITA

Read more about Loyola's VITA program.

Since 2019, the Loyola VITA program has prepared a total of 3,762 tax returns and attained tax refunds of more than $6.2 million.

Recognizing the extraordinary impact, Loyola honored CASH Campaign of Maryland two years ago with the University's Milch Community Partnership Award.

In turn, CASH recognizes how Loyola volunteers embrace the significance of VITA. "Loyola students quickly realize how important this work is. Saving on tax preparation fees can mean a month's worth of groceries, and a tax refund may be the largest amount of money a client receives all year," said Rob Bader, J.D., CASH director of tax operations, who has collaborated with Loyola's tax volunteering from the beginning. "So, they approach each return with care, professionalism, and a commitment to supporting those who need it most."

The students' dedication to helping Baltimore taxpayers aligns well with Loyola's Jesuit, liberal arts approach, Bender said. "VITA is experiential learning while serving the community. How much better can that get?"

VITA student participants gain so much through the experience that they sometimes return as alumni volunteers.

That's the case for **Edward Baddour, '25, MAcc '26**, who started serving as a student VITA leader in fall 2024. "Through VITA, I became so passionate about the tax services we provide to our community that I plan to continue volunteering at Loyola's VITA site in the future. It truly inspired me to a lifelong commitment to using my professional skills to help others."

Since 2019, the Loyola VITA program has prepared a total of 3,762 tax returns and attained tax refunds of more than $6.2 million. Before Loyola opened a site, Loyola students volunteered at other locations, facilitating hundreds of thousands of dollars in additional refunds.

ELEENA FEINBERG

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jeromie Miller, M.S. '28

BY EDEN BARTLETT

"Things just kept falling in place with experiences and people that I've met. Everything just kept aligning."



Jeromie Miller, M.S. '28, knew that his grandmother had received a master's degree in clinical psychology, but he never thought to ask from where. His family has connections to the Baltimore area going back decades, and his grandmother worked in Baltimore City Public Schools.

It wasn't until after he applied and shared the news that he had been accepted to the M.S. in Clinical Professional Counseling program at Loyola University Maryland that he discovered he was continuing a family legacy. But it wasn't a surprise.

"Loyola just stood out. They really make me feel included," said Miller, who earned his undergraduate degree from Stevenson University. "They extend opportunities to be better and do better and chase the things you want."

Growing up, Miller found his family prioritized community through church events and giving back. When he realized he could combine his passions for football and helping others into a counseling career, he decided to pursue sports psychology and began exploring master's programs. Loyola's clinical master's program seemed like the obvious choice, even before he knew his grandmother graduated with her master's in 1983.

"When she told me, it felt fortuitous," he said, "like it was just meant for me to go here."

ASK THE EXPERT

NAVIGATING THE AGE OF AI

GLORIA PHILLIPS-WREN, PH.D., DISCUSSES HOW TO USE AI AS A CO-PILOT

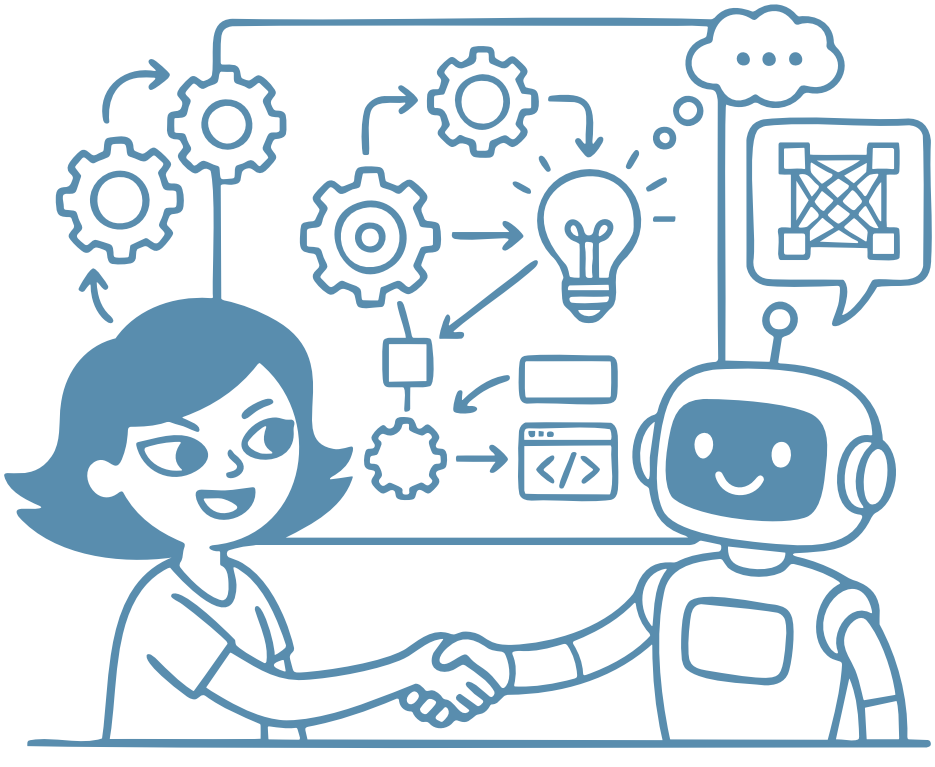
BY MADISON BORIS, '14, MBA '26



Artificial intelligence is reshaping how we work, learn, create, and make decisions. From chatbots that draft emails to tools that analyze vast amounts of data in seconds, AI is becoming an everyday companion. But where should humans draw the line? **Gloria Phillips-Wren, Ph.D.**, professor of information systems in the Sellinger School of Business and Management, has spent her career studying decision-making and how technology can support it. She shares why AI should enhance, not replace, human judgment, creativity, and ethical thinking.

Artificial intelligence is becoming part of our daily lives. How can AI help people make better decisions without becoming overly dependent on it?

AI is already woven into our everyday lives. The arrival of generative AI has changed how we interact with technology because we can communicate with it using natural language. The key is to think of AI as a co-pilot, not the pilot. AI can help us organize information, identify patterns, and improve productivity, but discernment and reflection remain uniquely human abilities. Those are values Loyola has emphasized for nearly 200 years, and they're just as important in the age of AI.



What's one misconception people have about tools like ChatGPT?

People often place too much trust in generative AI. At its core, it's making predictions based on patterns found through enormous amounts of data. That means it can be wrong, biased, or misleading. While these systems are improving rapidly, they don't understand your personal experiences, emotions, or the full context behind a decision. Human judgment is still irreplaceable.

You're researching how generative AI can enhance creativity. What have you discovered?

One of my team's most exciting findings is that AI works best as a brainstorming partner rather than a replacement for original thinking. Our research focuses on helping people develop stronger data analytics skills, and we found that creativity plays a critical role, especially in the earliest stages of defining a problem and generating ideas. When people develop their own ideas first and then use AI to expand or refine them, creativity actually improves. If you begin with AI instead, you may unintentionally limit your own creative thinking.

What skills should today's students develop as AI becomes more common in the workplace?

AI will undoubtedly become an increasingly valuable workplace tool because it can process massive amounts of information far faster than humans. Students should learn not only how to use these technologies effectively, but also when they're appropriate and whether the benefits outweigh the costs. Understanding the technology is important, but so is knowing when a decision belongs in human hands.

What ethical issues concern you most as AI becomes more sophisticated?

We need to think beyond what AI can do and ask what it should do. AI systems require enormous amounts of electricity, water, and computing resources. We should consider who benefits from these technologies, who bears the costs, and whether certain applications truly justify the resources they consume. We also don't yet know how widespread AI use may affect the way people think and learn over time. Finding the right balance between people, processes, and technology will be critical.

Looking ahead, what excites you most about AI's future?

My greatest hope is that AI will enable breakthroughs in medicine that improve and save lives. In many cases, we may not even think of it as AI. Instead, it will quietly power discoveries by processing enormous amounts of data and uncovering patterns humans couldn't find alone. Like any powerful technology, AI requires thoughtful safeguards and responsible use, but I believe it has tremendous potential to make the world better when guided by human wisdom.

What makes Loyola's approach to preparing students for an AI-driven future unique?

Loyola's emphasis on discernment, reflection, ethics, and care for others gives students an enduring foundation. Technology will continue to evolve, but our values remain constant. We want graduates who can think critically, evaluate complex situations, and make thoughtful decisions that consider both people and the broader impact of technology.

LOYOLA.EDU/GO/JESUIT-APPROACH-AI

Discover more Loyola faculty and alumni insights on how technology is changing the world.

Notable Thought Leaders

We're proudly sharing these comments from Loyola's expert thought leaders that reflect those reported by local, regional, and national media.



"There's an honesty to it that feels unfiltered. It feels a little more authentic than other media content, and I think that's part of the appeal."

Amy Becker, Ph.D., professor of communication and media, explaining why online political debate series have become more popular in an interview with HuffPost

"There's only so much magic a low-cost carrier can do before having to take losses, and that's why we see what we see now."

J.P. Krahel, Ph.D., chair and professor of accounting, talking with CBS Baltimore about Spirit Airlines ceasing operations



"We have to make our policies clear to students, and this also applies to teachers. AI can be used to customize classes, but not to grade papers."

Hung-bin Ding, Ph.D., associate dean for academics and professor of management at the Sellinger School of Business, talking about the pros and cons of AI with *The Daily Record*

"If you're hedging fuel, you're trying to make a bet that prices are going to go up. But today, right now, it's hard to say whether prices are going to be chronically high, or if they're going to revert back, or what's going to happen even months from now."

Kerry Tan, Ph.D., chair and professor of economics, talking about the economic effects of the Strait of Hormuz blockade on jet fuel prices—and subsequently airfare—on NPR



"Cognitive bias refers to things that impact how we think. It's how our brains are wired. Normally, it's not a bad thing, but in criminal investigations, the stakes are much higher. If people can look at the same piece of evidence and come to different conclusions, one of them has to be wrong."

Marion Davidson, Ph.D., assistant teaching professor of forensic science, describing the legal implications of cognitive bias on ABC News Nightline

Notable Faces of Loyola

BAHRAM ROUGHANI, PH.D.

Since joining Loyola in 2013 as professor of physics and associate dean of natural and applied sciences, **Bahram Roughani, Ph.D.**, has strengthened STEM education, research, and student opportunities.

BY EDEN BARTLETT



WHY LOYOLA?

As a physicist specialized in experimental condensed matter physics, Roughani is no stranger to complex questions, but the answer to this one was easy. Loyola's liberal arts foundation offers a unique advantage to students. "Scientific and analytical skills are needed to solve complex problems, but curiosity, ethical reasoning, and lifelong learning taught through the liberal arts perspective are invaluable throughout their career."

STEM + LIBERAL ARTS = ?

"I often compare this synergy to a tandem bicycle," he said. "STEM expertise provides the power that drives progress, while the liberal arts perspective helps steer direction, guided by ethical considerations, societal impact, and environmental responsibility."

READY FOR AI. READY FOR ANYTHING.

Preparing students for careers in an AI-enabled world requires recognizing AI literacy as a foundational skill, Roughani said. The integration of Loyola's liberal arts skills, like adaptability, critical thinking, and communication, teaches graduates to evaluate AI-informed insights and adapt quickly to evolving technologies.

EXCITING TIME FOR STEM

Roughani points to the University's significant investments in STEM facilities, such as the state-of-the-art renovations of Donnelly Science Center and the addition of Bloomfield Hall. But he's also proud of the "faculty champions who have helped establish new interdisciplinary STEM programs in the past decade."

SOMETHING SURPRISING ABOUT YOU?

"I've been accused of having a sense of humor that reflects my background in physics: occasionally complex, frequently unexpected, and sometimes accompanied by instructions that nobody reads," Roughani said. "Think of it as quantum humor. At first, it seems confusing, but after sufficient observation, it somehow collapses into something funny."

AARON BOUTWELL

Notable News



Forensic Science Department Secures Nearly $1 Million in Federal Funding

Loyola has been awarded $965,000 in federal funding to create a forensic science training center to support innovation through the University's partnerships with local law enforcement agencies and the City of Baltimore. Resources will enable cutting-edge research in areas like DNA analysis, toxicology, digital forensics, and pattern analysis. "Our goal is to make Maryland the top place for forensic science education, training, and career opportunities, and this funding is a springboard for that," said **David Rivers, Ph.D.**, chair and professor of forensic science.

Loyola's Sellinger School Launches Supply Chain Major

The Sellinger School of Business and Management launched a Bachelor of Business Administration in Supply Chain Management this summer. The new program prepares students to manage the efficient and effective flow of products, services, and information within and among organizations. "A university like Loyola, headquartered in a major port city at the critical intersection of rail, road, and air transportation hubs, is uniquely situated to give students familiarity with and experience in supply chain management," said **Mary Ann Scully, MBA '79**, dean of Loyola's Sellinger School.

Loyola Names PNC Bank's Laura L. Gamble as Business Leader of the Year

Loyola's Sellinger School of Business and Management named Laura L. Gamble, PNC's regional president of Greater Maryland and Northeast territory executive, as the 2026 Business Leader of the Year. The award honors business executives who embody Loyola's Jesuit commitment to community and service in the leadership of their organization. The award will be presented at the Business Leader of the Year event on Nov. 3, 2026, at the Renaissance Hotel.



LAURA L. GAMBLE

Loyola Graduate Appointed as Superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools

Bill Heiser, Ed.D., '95, M.Ed. '97, has been appointed as superintendent of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS). Heiser joins BCPS after three years as the chief operating officer of Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS). Prior to his tenure with AACPS, he served as president of Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore for eight years. "When the announcement came through that Dr. Bill Heiser had been named BCPS superintendent, there was a cheer on the Evergreen campus," said **Afra Ahmed Hersi, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Education. "We couldn't be more excited about what's ahead for BCPS students and families, and we are honored to continue building our partnership under his leadership."



BILL HEISER, ED.D., '95, M.ED. '97

Fantastic Fulbrights

Two members of Loyola's Class of 2026—**Joshua Player** and **Jason Rowe**—were awarded prestigious Fulbright Awards to spend one year abroad engaged in professional advancement and cross-cultural dialogue. Player is spending the 2026-27 academic year conducting neuroscience research in Bergen, Norway, while Rowe is an English teaching assistant in Taiwan.

Rankings Roundup

Loyola's graduate programs earned several notable rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual list of Best Graduate Schools, showcasing the University's strong performance across multiple fields. The Sellinger School of Business and Management tied for No. 87 of 452 schools eligible on its list of Best Business Schools, while the Professional's MBA, a part-time, evening MBA program designed for working professionals, ranked tied for No. 74 of 233 schools eligible in the nation. Loyola was also ranked No. 92 (tied) out of 285 speech-language pathology programs, rising 13 spots from last year, and No. 109 (tied) out of 244 clinical psychology programs.

Loyola Celebrates Completion of Mural at Campion Tower

Loyola celebrated the completion of a mural on an external wall of Campion Tower, a residence hall on Loyola's Evergreen campus, in April 2026. The mural was created and installed by **Jaz Erenberg**, Loyola's 2025-26 artist in residence. Erenberg and her team surveyed the student body for inspiration and then painted the mural in the Spring 2026 semester. A smaller companion mural, *Liminal Growth*, was created by Loyola students with the direction of faculty members and Erenberg's team over winter break. The mural, located on the curved wall outside Hopkins Court, another Loyola residence hall, uses polytab mural cloth, a fabric typically made from a blend of polyester and cotton fibers that can be adhered to a surface. The theme of both projects is liminality, exploring the concept as both space and experience.



CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

THE FAMILY THAT FOUND HIM

HOW LOYOLA'S EVENT SERVICES TEAM—AND ENTIRE CAMPUS COMMUNITY—HELPED JASON VIRTS, '26, BUILD A HOME AND FUTURE

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR., '94

Jason Virts' father didn't believe in higher education.

The better path for his son, he insisted, was to keep working at a Baltimore grocery store, climb the ranks, and eventually become a manager.

So, when Virts told his father he was enrolling at Loyola University Maryland as a student in the Ignatius Scholars Program—a transition and leadership program that helps first-generation students succeed in college—his father gave him an ultimatum: "If you do, don't come home."

Virts chose Loyola anyway.

The transition wasn't easy.

"There was a big socioeconomic divide between a lot of the other students and me," said Virts, whose mother died of cancer while he was a student at Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Baltimore.

It was while working in Loyola's Event Services department throughout his college years that Virts found the sense of community he had been seeking.

As he set up chairs, operated audiovisual equipment, and eventually supervised other students, the data science major came to see his mentors and colleagues as family.

Aaron Lassiter and **David Howard**, Event Services assistant managers, were especially important in Virts' growth. Both men grew up in East Baltimore, just as Virts did. They said they felt a responsibility to support and encourage him.

"None of us grew up pretty," Howard said. "He knew he could talk to us."

That trust translated into responsibility. By senior year, Virts was directing his own crew, capable of clearing a room of 700 chairs in 45 minutes.

Howard encouraged Virts never to forget where he came from and to take advantage of every opportunity.

"Don't change," Howard said. "Just be who you are, and everybody around you will get better."

Lassiter, who affectionately calls Virts his "nephew," noted that Virts had support not only from Event Services, but also from deans and faculty members who all wanted to "see him win."

With the encouragement of the **Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.**, associate professor of law and social responsibility and assistant to the president for mission integration, and **Mary Beth Mudric, Ph.D.**, assistant dean of undergraduate studies, Virts led the first-generation retreat his sophomore year and built relationships that helped him feel more connected.

When other students went home for Thanksgiving, Christmas, or summer break, Virts stayed on campus and continued working for Event Services because he had nowhere else to go. Even after he earned his degree, Loyola allowed him to continue living on campus while he worked for Events Services and searched for career opportunities in his field.

At Loyola's Commencement this past spring, Virts—valedictorian at his high school graduation—was the featured student speaker, addressing his fellow graduates from the stage. His twin brother flew in from Las Vegas to surprise him, and his sister came, too.

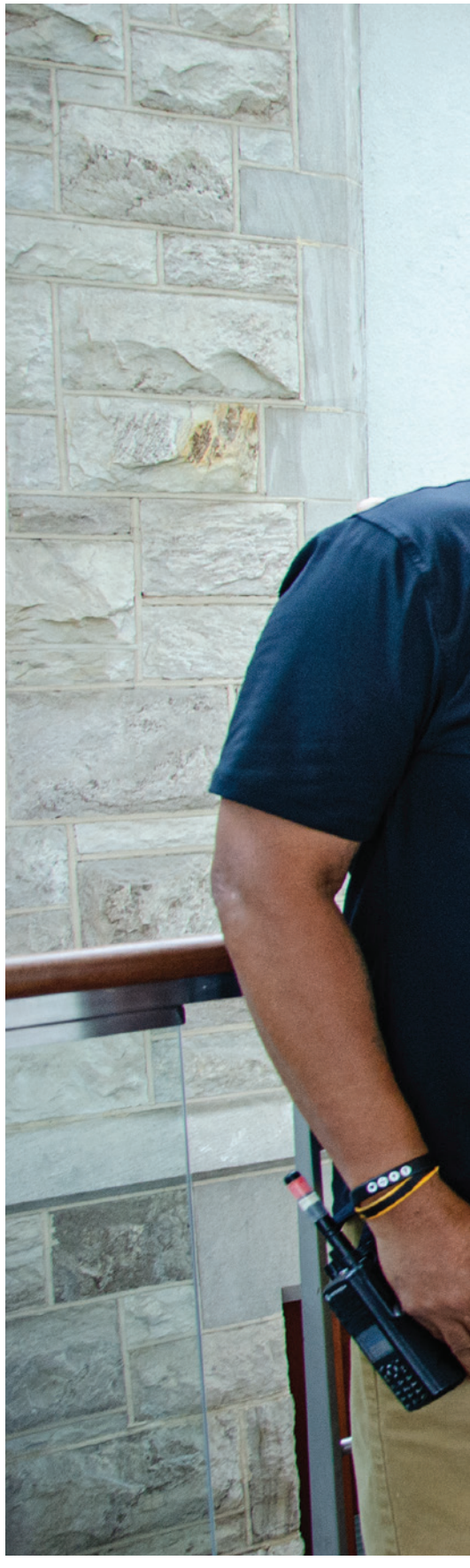
His father was not there. He died in 2025 during his son's junior year.

"I don't know if he would have even come to the graduation," Virts said, "but I think deep down, maybe he would have a little bit of pride for me graduating if he was able to see all the support I had."

The mentors, colleagues, and friends who had become his family—the family he'd built—were in the crowd instead.

In his address, the 22-year-old—who had completed an internship with the Space Telescope Science Institute analyzing large astronomical datasets and plans to pursue a career in data analytics and software development—thanked Event Services for giving him far more than a campus job.

"It became a place where I felt seen, where I felt valued, where I felt like I was part of something," Virts said.



MALIA LEARY

Jason Virts, ’26, (center) found a home at Loyola, especially with the support of David Howard (left) and Aaron Lassiter (right), Event Services assistant managers.

LOYOLA.EDU/GO/2026-STUDENT-SPEAKER

Watch Virts’ Commencement speech.



LOYOLAGREYHOUNDS.COM

Go online for the latest Greyhounds highlights and schedules.

RECOGNITION

A WINNING TEAM BONDED FOR LIFE

LOYOLA'S FIRST-EVER NATIONAL SOCCER CHAMPIONS MARK MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY THIS FALL

BY PATRICK STEVENS

In 1976, **Nick Mangione, '80**, was barely into his college soccer career at Loyola when older teammates began to say they were on their way to a national title.

At first, he could scarcely believe them.

"I used to think that was early to start that positive thinking," Mangione said. "But they were right. I always knew Loyola had a great program. I used to watch them as a kid. When I got there, I didn't know any better. I was a freshman. After that game against Adelphi, which was pretty early in the season, I knew there was something special."

So did the rest of the Greyhounds, who went 21-1 on the way to the school's first NCAA Division II championship and the forming of bonds that remain to this day. The team reunited on Loyola's Evergreen campus Sept. 12 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the title run.





While Loyola was strong all over the field, its defining strength was an offense that averaged 4.19 goals and scored multiple goals in all but one game, a 1-0 defeat of Rollins to seal a trip to the Division II semifinals.

"When you have **Pete Notaro** leading the nation with 31 goals, we're bound to score," said forward **Mario Scilipoti, '79**. "Being a part of it was easy. Petey had the speed, **Ian [Reid, '78]** had the skill, Nicky had the skill, and I just had a pretty good head ball. It was a good combination of offensive prowess."

It made for an appealing way for students to spend a weekend afternoon in the middle of campus. Chances were, Loyola would put on a memorable display—not to mention win. At games like the one against the University of Baltimore, students stood two to three deep watching.

"People were in the trees watching the games if they couldn't get in," Scilipoti said. "It was exciting. We knew every Saturday we'd have a big crowd, and we played to it, for sure."

It was also a team deeply rooted in the community. All but one player on the roster graduated from high school inside Baltimore or within five miles of the city line. There were no out-of-state players, and while more than half the roster played high school ball at Calvert Hall College or Archbishop Curley High School, just about everyone was familiar with one another prior to college.

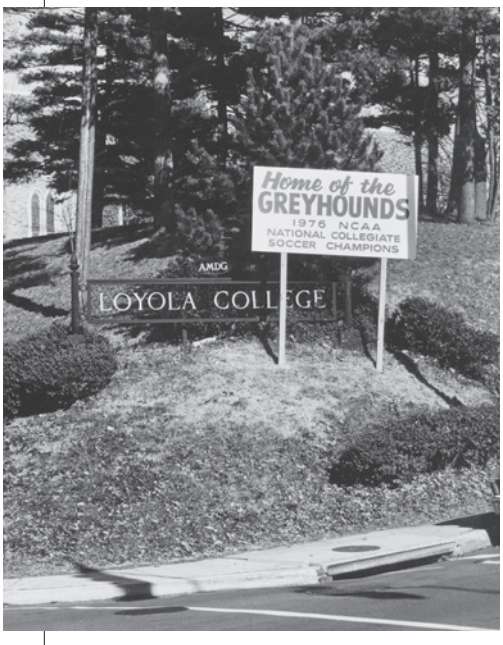
"We all played against each other when we were teenagers down at Patterson Park," Mangione said. "It's a credit to the coach, **Jim Bullington, '52**, to pull that group of guys together so we just all molded together in a positive way. We never had any kind of drama at all that season."

Loyola traveled to NCAA championship host Seattle Pacific for a strength-vs.-strength matchup with Chico State, a California school with a defense dubbed the No Goal Patrol. The Greyhounds were unfazed, collecting a 3-2 victory to advance to the final two days later against New Haven.

"You were literally calling people because of the time difference late at night to say 'Hey, we won our semifinal game,'" said fullback **Steve Dempsey, '79**. "None of this, 'They were up 1-0 at the half.' Nobody knew anything. Even after it was over, you had to call your parents and tell them, 'Hey, we won.' [Local media legend] **Vince Bagli, '49**, a 2003 member of the Loyola Athletics Hall of Fame, couldn't even get it on the late-night news because we were on Pacific time."

Mangione vividly recalls the team sharing a Thanksgiving meal during that championship weekend, and longtime Loyola administrator **Rev. Daniel J. McGuire, S.J.**, offering a prayer at Mass.

The 1976 soccer team won Loyola's first-ever national title. They marked the 50th anniversary this fall.



COURTESY OF LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY.

While the conditions weren't favorable for the up-tempo Greyhounds—slick and cold on an artificial turf field—Loyola took 32 shots in a 2-0 victory to claim the title. Reid was named the tournament's most outstanding offensive player, while **John Palmere, '79**, took top defensive honors.

"Going into New Haven, there was no way we were going to lose that game," Scilipoti said. "We knew we were going to win."

And with that, a team filled with guys who commuted to campus each day put the Greyhounds on the championship map.

Winning Loyola's first national title in any sport remains a distinct point of pride for a group that remains tied together a half-century later. They have an email list, and Dempsey said the text group they are all part of was especially vibrant during this summer's World Cup.

The team was first honored when they were inducted into Loyola's Hall of Fame in 2016. This time, they remembered Bullington (who died in 2001) and ace goalkeeper **John Houska, '78**, (who died in 2020) and celebrated the achievement that made them a forever team.

"It's something that kind of changed our lives and probably formed our future nearly 50 years ago," Mangione said. "We're very, very blessed to be able to be together."

Greyhounds Pride

Making Hounds History

Joe Hayburn, '27, became the second Loyola swimmer to compete in the NCAA Men's Swimming & Diving Championships when he swam in the 100 backstroke in March.

Hayburn, who is the fourth Loyola student in history to compete in an NCAA individual championship in any sport, swam 44.99 in the morning's preliminaries and was 23rd overall. The next day he set Patriot League and Loyola program records in the 200-yard backstroke, finishing 20th.

Academic Honors

Twelve Loyola University Maryland athletic teams earned perfect scores in the latest Academic Progress Rate (APR) report released in May by the NCAA.

The Greyhounds men's basketball, men's golf, men's lacrosse, men's swimming and diving, men's tennis, women's cross country, women's rowing, women's lacrosse, women's soccer, women's tennis, women's track and field, and women's volleyball teams all had perfect 1,000 scores for the 2024-25 APR.

Eight of those teams—men's golf, men's tennis, women's cross country, women's rowing, women's lacrosse, women's tennis, women's track and field, and women's volleyball—also have perfect scores in the multi-year tracking that dates to the last four completed academic years.

In addition, Loyola's winter and spring sports saw 257 student-athletes named to the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll. Student-athletes of Patriot League-sponsored sports were recognized for posting grade-point averages of 3.2 or higher during the spring semester when their teams competed in their conference championships.

Loyola's average of 20.35 per sport finished just behind the averages of Bucknell and Lafayette. The Greyhounds had the highest average of Patriot League Academic Honor Roll recipients among non-football-playing schools in the conference.

Lacrosse Legend

World Lacrosse announced its inaugural class of the World Lacrosse Legend Award, honoring three athletes whose careers defined excellence in international women's lacrosse, and **Jen Adams**, head women's lacrosse coach, was one of the athletes named.

She was joined by Cherie Greer Brown and Jess Wilk of the United States.

World Lacrosse President Bob DeMarco said: "Jen, Cherie, and Jess represent the very best of what our sport has produced. Each of them achieved greatness at multiple world championships and left an enduring mark not only in the record books but on every generation of players that followed. It is a privilege to honor them as the inaugural class of the World Lacrosse Legend Award."





WHERE INNOVATION AND TRADITION MEET

NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE FUTURE

BY RITA BUETTNER, M.A. '24

As associate professor of art history, **Kerry Boeye, Ph.D.**, digs into centuries-old art with his students. As endowed professor of biology and innovation, **Michael Tangrea, Ph.D., '96**, expands research in biohealth.

When the two faculty members connected, they discovered they had more in common than they would have guessed. Boeye, who minored in biology, learned that Tangrea graduated not just with a major in biology but also a minor in studio arts. Together, they hatched an idea to teach a Medical Humanities class together—a course they've now offered twice.

"The class went very well," Boeye said. "We realized it wasn't just the content we were teaching but how we taught about research and thinking and approaching problems from different perspectives."

Living the *Magis*

That kind of connection, collaboration, and curiosity doesn't just lead to new classes, but also new programs—at a time when students and the market are clamoring for them. Loyola's strategic plan, *Together We Rise,* calls for the University to develop new market-aligned programs, especially in health and STEM fields, that support mission and enhance future enrollment.

New academic programs are springing up across the University in all three schools. And academic leaders say a liberal arts university like Loyola is the perfect place for this type of creative thinking that stays rooted in what matters most in higher education.

"Creating new academic programs is nothing new for our faculty, who are lifelong learners who inspire intellectual curiosity and a love for the liberal arts in our students," said **Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D.**, provost and senior vice president. "The strategic plan fosters an environment and an opportunity to lean more fully into those strengths—to live out the *magis* at Loyola, stretch ourselves as educators, and explore ways to enhance the outstanding Jesuit, liberal arts education with new offerings."

The new academic programs being launched are being created strategically with a deep commitment to Loyola's liberal arts core and a conviction to prepare students to meet the needs of the world.

"We are thinking about where market, mission, and our liberal arts tradition meet," said **Frank D. Golom, Ph.D., '04**, dean of Loyola College. "That intersection is the true seat of innovation for us as a Jesuit, Catholic institution."

Something Old, Something New

"There are some programs that scream, 'this is who we are.' Nursing is one of them, but it is by no means the only one," Golom said. "We have added a number of programs, both in the liberal arts and the pre-professional space, that cannot be separated from the way we approach undergraduate education at Loyola. I think we have shown that we can deliver our most professional degrees in a way that is distinctively Jesuit, Catholic, liberal arts oriented."

Loyola's deeply relational, residential experience, in which students are mentored by their professors and build deep relationships with one another, dovetails with the generations-old purpose of the liberal arts.

"We are educating people not just for success, but to be informed, discerning, and ethically-minded citizens in their democracy. In the liberal arts tradition,

the goal has always been contributing to the common good," Golom said. "In fact, from a liberal education perspective, the 'why' and the 'how' have not changed for centuries. But 'what' we do—the content of what we teach and what we consider foundational for citizenship—has and, in some cases, probably should."

The new programs—which are generating so much excitement and interest among students, prospective students, and alumni—build on existing strengths, said **Mary Ann Scully, MBA '79**, dean of the Sellinger School.

"With these specializations, our faculty are doing something to help grow their disciplines," she said. "So real estate is part of finance, supply chain management is part of information systems. We are asking what we are doing to ensure that the curriculum is relevant and that when students graduate they are as prepared as possible for both a career and for impact."

Internal Vision, External Engagement

As part of that discernment process, Scully and others are engaging alumni and other community partners. These leaders meet with faculty to discuss how students need to be prepared.

"In part because of AI, students need these very durable skills like critical thinking and communication; skills they get through our liberal arts education. Then you look at certain fields that employers are telling us are in heavy demand and are not being met by anyone else," Scully said. "We're trying to solicit input from people outside the campus—employers in industry—to ask them what are you seeing, what can we do to help you, and in the process how can we help our students."

Scully values the abundant enthusiasm and the investment from the community—internally and externally.

"By the time they're done, after five or six meetings, they're engaged," Scully said. "When we get to the end, I say, 'These are specialty programs, we don't necessarily have faculty to teach these in the first year, will you teach them?' They all say 'yes.' 'Will you guarantee our students internships?' They all say 'yes.'"



Afra Ahmed Hersi, Ph.D.

"Innovation is the heartbeat of what it means to educate students at Loyola. It's how we prepare students to use their knowledge, talents, and compassion to make a difference in the world."

Real World Experience

The new majors and minors are exciting to students like **Luke Buettner, '29**, who wants to pursue a career in real estate, but chose Loyola before the University launched its program. He figured he would major in finance—and now he's majoring in both.

"I was thrilled because this meant that I could study both finance and real estate and understand how these two fields coincide," said Buettner, who lives in Finksburg, Maryland (and is no relation to the author of this article). "Real estate excites me because it transforms communities and brings together a range of people at each stage of development to bring a project to life. I am compelled by the idea of developing homes for people to live in or building spaces where both local and national businesses can thrive. The lasting impact that a project can have on a community is what excites me the most."

As a first-year student, Buettner took a Real Estate Development class with **Dori Farley**, senior associate at MCB Real Estate and affiliate instructor in finance. "She exhibited patience as I was the only freshman taking her class, while continually challenging me to grow," Buettner said.

Scully sees the strategic development of new programs, like the new real estate major, as building on the work the University is doing to add more experiential learning, field trips, and internship opportunities for students—and to track their success.

Buettner experienced this firsthand in Farley's class. "Through her teaching, I was introduced to real-world experiences, examples, and professional speakers."



Luke Buettner, '29

"I was thrilled because this meant that I could study both finance and real estate and understand how these two fields coincide. Real estate excites me because it transforms communities and brings together a range of people at each stage of development to bring a project to life."

Innovation Through Collaboration

Some of the School of Education's newest programs have emerged through collaboration across disciplines and a commitment to meeting evolving educational needs. Loyola's expanding Special Education offerings illustrate that approach. Building on established undergraduate and graduate programs, faculty worked across departments to develop a new undergraduate major that combines evidence-based practice, extensive clinical experiences, and interdisciplinary learning. Students may pursue coursework that complements their preparation in areas such as literacy, psychology, multilingual learner education, and speech-language-hearing sciences, preparing them to support diverse learners in inclusive educational settings, said **Afra Ahmed Hersi, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Education.

The Special Education major grew out of an interdisciplinary effort that brought together perspectives from across the University, a process Hersi described as "a perfect example of collaboration and interdisciplinary engagement." For Hersi, the creation of the program reflects a broader culture of innovation across Loyola.

"Innovation is the heartbeat of what it means to educate students at Loyola," Hersi said. "It's how we prepare

students to use their knowledge, talents, and compassion to make a difference in the world."

Culture of Learning

For Hersi, innovation begins with a culture of learning. Across Loyola, faculty continually explore new ideas, new tools, and new approaches to preparing students. Those conversations often lead to collaborations that shape programs, curricula, and new opportunities for students.

"It starts with our own faculty learning," she said. "It's also modeling this idea of how learning is a way to make sense of the world—whether it's new tools or ways to make things happen. At Loyola, we're really interested in the idea of the productive collaboration that happens when you bring people together to find a solution. That's what you're seeing here."

As new programs are being considered, it's important to realize what drives most faculty members, Golom said.

"If you're a faculty member, you're going to sleep and waking up thinking about whether your course is truly giving students what they need—not just to learn the material but to do good work in the world," he said. "What I think we've been doing better is harnessing that natural energy."

What's Old Is New

Those interdisciplinary conversations among faculty and across divisions and schools may not just be inspiring and affirming, but productive in the way courses and academic programs are coming together.

"If we aspire to be an elite liberal arts school, we should be preparing our students to navigate that world," said Boeye, who serves as chair of the faculty and oversees the Academic Senate. "We need to prepare them to be intellectually nimble, to be able to learn quickly, to know where to look for answers, and to be able to shift from using quantitative methods to making rhetorical arguments that are compelling."

That's as true today as it was when Loyola was founded nearly 175 years ago. L

LOYOLA.EDU/ACADEMICS

Discover all of Loyola's academic programs.

THE LATEST ADDITIONS

Faculty are working across the University to create new programs that build on the University's strengths and serve incoming and current students.

New programs that are being implemented at Loyola include:



The schools are also adding new minors, including Community Development, Health and Human Experiences, and Arts Management.

Our Common Ho
A Hub for Comm

NEW SPACE HELPS LOYOLA DEEPEN ITS COMMITMENT TO BALTIMORE

BY LIAM DAVIS



Over the decades, Loyola has helped communities come together for a more vibrant corridor. Thanks to significant grant funding, the University is opening a new space, the Loyola Community Center, that will serve as a community hub.

me, nunity



MALIA LEARY





Dan Pontious has lived in the Radnor-Winston neighborhood adjacent to Loyola's Evergreen campus for nearly 30 years with his wife, Karen. During that time, he has seen a great deal of change. Pontious says that one thing that has made an impact over the years is Loyola and its investment in local neighborhoods.

"Loyola has been critical over the decades in helping communities come together to advocate for a more vibrant and just corridor," said Pontious, who is the president of the York Road Partnership.

Now, Loyola is marking a new chapter in its story as an anchor institution that is invested in Baltimore and in the York Road corridor. Thanks to the recent addition of significant grant funding, the University is enhancing a space that will



Dan Pontious



Loyola has had a longstanding presence and involvement on York Road. The addition of the community hub creates a stronger visible presence for the work that happens through Loyola's collaborative work with its neighbors and community partners.



Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr.PH.

serve as a community hub for members of the University and its neighbors who are partners in the initiative to strengthen the community.

"We often convene groups of our partners together and ask: how do we work together, coalition-style, to tackle a neighborhood issue?" said **Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr.PH.**, executive director of neighborhood resilience and community engagement. "Everyone contributes from their angle, and we serve as the glue that connects everyone."

Through a combination of private philanthropy and federal and state funding, the University is transforming its property at 5104 York Road into a dedicated community hub, the Loyola Community Center, to serve as the heart of Loyola's food access work, environmental and integral ecology programming, and neighborhood partnership.

Enhanced Space, Expanded Opportunities

The addition of the Loyola Community Center creates a stronger visible presence for the invaluable, unseen work that happens through Loyola's collaboration with its neighbors and community partners. It also brings new life to a utilitarian space that can be easy to overlook. For more than a decade, this understated building has served as the heart of Loyola's commitment to place-based community engagement in Greater Govans and to expanding food access along the York Road corridor.

Located at 5104 York Road not far from the Evergreen campus, the one-story concrete building served as a Ford dealership before it was purchased by Loyola in 1998. Over the years, the Loyola Community Center has become a shared gathering place for neighbors and the University alike, hosting programs such as the Govans Farmers Market, York Road Community Days, and the Govans Community Fridge.



Deb Cady Melzer, Ph.D.

"In many ways, the property reflects Loyola's broader role in Baltimore," said **Deb Cady Melzer, Ph.D.**, vice president for mission and student development. "Just as it has grown into an anchor for the surrounding community, Loyola has embraced its role as an anchor institution in the city: bringing people together, investing in local partnerships, and working alongside neighbors to build a stronger, more resilient common home."

From Initiative to Infrastructure

Loyola's longstanding presence and involvement on York Road has attracted attention not just locally, but also regionally and nationally—making it possible for the University to secure significant financial support.

In 2024, the University received over $1.2 million in federal and state funding to create a community hub on York Road. Earlier this year, Loyola received $267,000 in grants to support improvements at the location for the community hub. These grants—a $167,000 grant from the France-Merrick Foundation and a $100,000 grant from the Middendorf Foundation—will support new storefront windows and doors, exterior cladding, and improved lighting at 5104 York Road. They will also support the installation of a water bottle filling station and outlets and USB ports on the building's exterior, all of which will be available to the community.

The improvements are part of a larger effort to enhance Loyola's new Center for Neighborhood Resilience.



MALIA LEARY, COURTESY OF CCSJ.

"The difference now is we have infrastructure, so we have a community center where people can gather, and we can do programs year-round," said Grier McGinnis.

A Foundation Built on Trust

Loyola also received a $500,000 Trust in Practice Award to support its new Rooted in Trust program, one of 11 national projects selected for the award, which is co-sponsored by Aspen Institute's Alliance for Social Trust and Allstate. The program, to be launched with three Greater Govans nonprofit partners, aims to train, support, and connect an intergenerational network of neighborhood leaders who revitalize and activate public spaces as a pathway to building trust.

"I think the fact that we were awarded that grant acknowledges the work that our partners have been doing for years," said Grier McGinnis. "You typically award these grants to known trust-building entities."

Grier McGinnis points out that, while the grant provides new opportunities to grow Loyola's community engagement efforts along York Road, it is more of a continuation than a starting point.

The trust-building element is also particularly important in the context of York Road's history, which reflects broader divisions within Baltimore.

"This is one of the starkest racial dividing lines in the region, and a big part of our work is building trust across that divide," said Pontious.

That reality creates both friction and opportunity.

"We bring people together around shared goals—finding common ground and turning that into action," said Allison Duggan, community organizing manager with the York Road Partnership.



Allison Duggan

Anchored in Baltimore

Loyola serves as a facilitator and a coalition-builder, a partner and a resource. Its work is grounded in solidarity and committed to the common good with the University's Center for Neighborhood Resilience at the helm.

The mission of the Center, which was renamed in 2025, builds on the long-standing work and coalition-style approach of Loyola's former York Road Initiative (YRI). Born out of Loyola's Year of the City, YRI established the University's institutional commitment to place-based justice through the call of the 2008-2013 strategic plan to "take a leadership role in the development of a multi-dimensional plan to improve the quality of life for all persons living, working, and learning in the York Road corridor."

YRI was instrumental in shaping the 2015 York Road Commercial Corridor Vision and Action Plan, which recommended the creation of the York Corridor Business Improvement District to provide services that ensure a clean, green, and vibrant corridor.

The Center now focuses on youth development and student leadership; community life and connection; food access and environmental stewardship; and community health and wellness. Recent efforts include a homeless outreach initiative in partnership with the Baltimore City Mayor's Office and faith-based organizations along the corridor.

"It's making sure communities have the tools and the skills they need to withstand hardships or crisis," Grier McGinnis said.



COURTESY OF CCSJ

Over the years, the Loyola Community Center has become a shared gathering place for neighbors and the University alike, hosting programs including the Govans Community Fridge.



COURTESY OF CCSJ.

Local growers, makers, and creators from across the Baltimore region bring their goods to the Govans Farmers Market.

Classroom to Community

While Loyola helps shape the city, the city also shapes Loyola. Across disciplines, students engage with Baltimore in ways that connect their academic work and co-curricular involvement to real-world challenges and opportunities while living out Jesuit values like service, justice, and *cura personalis* (care for the whole person), as well as the University's *Laudato Si'* commitment to care for our planet and our people.



Mary Sue Callan-Farley

"For all of us, and particularly students, we are invited and challenged to listen, to act locally, and to align interests and identity with those who historically have been left out—this experience opens a world which flows out into greater Baltimore as well as into their choice of coursework and internships," said **Mary Sue Callan-Farley**, director of the Center for Community, Service, and Justice (CCSJ).

For **Jeeda Hennawi, '27**, a biology and Spanish double major who aspires to go into the medical field and has a strong passion for service, she's found opportunity at CCSJ. Hennawi serves as the CCSJ program coordinator, supporting much of the service work along the York Road corridor.



Jeeda Hennawi, '27

"I really like how CCSJ takes a very holistic approach to service, as well as the environmental approach because environmental health makes a huge difference in someone's day-to-day life," Hennawi said.

Connecting interests to the city can also take many other forms. Through CCSJ, nearly 800 students participate in service, leadership, and outreach annually with community partners across Baltimore through their coursework, while the Loyola Clinical Centers (LCC) expands access to inclusive health care, serving more than 40,000 people in the community.



Kara Vincent, '91, M.S. '93

"Through providing services to individuals and families across Baltimore and outside the walls of the LCC, Baltimore becomes an essential part and extension of our graduate students' clinical education, just as our students and programs contribute to the well-being of the city," said **Kara Vincent, '91, M.S. '93**, LCC executive director.

Other academic and co-curricular programs extend that impact. For example, the Center for Research and Evaluation advances leadership and equity in education, and the Karson Institute for Race, Peace, and Social Justice fosters research and dialogue on critical social issues. The Nick and Susie Simon Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship supports aspiring entrepreneurs as they develop ventures and ideas with real-world impact.

"Within the past five years, a lot of new opportunities have opened up in community engagement, including in our academic units," said Grier McGinnis. "We have deans who are incredibly engaged and always looking for new opportunities."

A City Worth Rooting For

As Loyola continues to implement its strategic plan, *Together We Rise,* initiatives like the Center for Neighborhood Resilience are becoming even more central to the University's identity.

"Loyola is deeply committed to being a good neighbor," said Cady Melzer. "Our Jesuit values of forming people for and with others require that we educate not only for competence, but for compassion and conscience. That could not happen without thinking about our relationships with our neighbors, both on and off campus."

What began with a small, unassuming building on York Road has grown into far more—a center dedicated to civic engagement and trust, a physical hub for community initiatives, and an institutional commitment to our common home. And as Loyola continues to invest in Baltimore, that building serves as a reminder of how meaningful change often starts small and grows over time, with local community members at the forefront. And its enhanced presence will help Loyola serve and partner with the community in even greater ways.

"Baltimore is a very entrepreneurial city. There are so many creative and talented organizations, individuals, artists, and community developers who want to make the city better," said Grier McGinnis. "Baltimore is always the city that you want to root for."

LOYOLA.EDU/GO/CNR

Learn more about Loyola's Center for Neighborhood Resilience.

CHOREOGRAPHY OF COMMUNITY

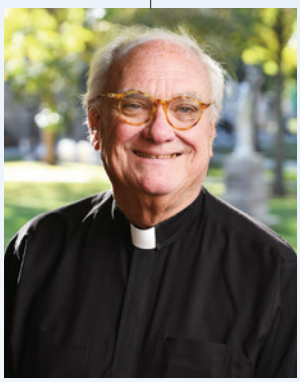
BY REV. TIMOTHY BROWN, S.J.

"Tell me the landscape in which you live, and I will tell you who you are."

Those are powerful words from the Spanish philosopher José Ortega y Gasset. They speak not just to how people live in landscapes and ecosystems, but also the ways in which we are all connected.

Place is so important. Wherever we live and work and study, we are connected to the ecosystem around us. That's why the Society of Jesus intentionally founded schools in urban settings. Especially when starting schools and colleges in the United States, they wanted their students to learn in the great cities of this nation.

Jesuit colleges and universities thrive because of their commitment to their urban homes—and the cities thrive because of their connection to these higher education institutions. In the best ways, those institutions and their cities form shared identities, elevate each other, and enhance learning and living across the ecosystem.



Here at Loyola, we see that in the way in which our University is engaged and partnering with the city of Baltimore. The creation of the Govans Farmers Market, the evolution of the Loyola Center for Neighborhood Resilience, and the opening of the Loyola Community Center are examples of the ways Loyola and the neighborhoods around it are strengthening each other. Loyola is only enriched by its neighborhoods and its presence in Baltimore, just as Baltimore and our neighbors are enriched by our presence. Our stories, our roles in this ecosystem, are intertwined.

It's an ongoing project and a dream that St. Ignatius would have understood, recognizing that learning is not for the individual but for the greater good, with a significant impact.

When urban activist Jane Jacobs fought against highways being constructed in Manhattan, she recognized the importance of advocating for urban communities.

The author of *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* described the idea of an urban ballet, where people sit on their stoops—just like in Baltimore—and observe what is happening on the street. From their elevated steps, they watch children at play and people sweeping their sidewalks. They see neighbors interacting and creating a community that is alive and well.

The way in which the early Jesuits were very focused on cities in their creativity is a metaphor for that intricate urban ballet. That choreography of community is one that is worth watching as it evolves and changes and lives out the mission the Society of Jesus established so many years ago.

"Tell me the landscape in which you live, and I will tell you who you are."

Loyola is Baltimore. Baltimore is Loyola. Together, we are writing a story for the future—a beautiful story of opportunity and learning and living hope.

Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J., assistant to the president for mission integration and associate professor of law and social responsibility, is co-founder of the Center of Values and Service, which became the Center for Community, Service, and Justice (CCSJ). Fr. Brown serves as a key advisor and liaison to the leadership of the Mission and Identity Division, particularly with regards to CCSJ.



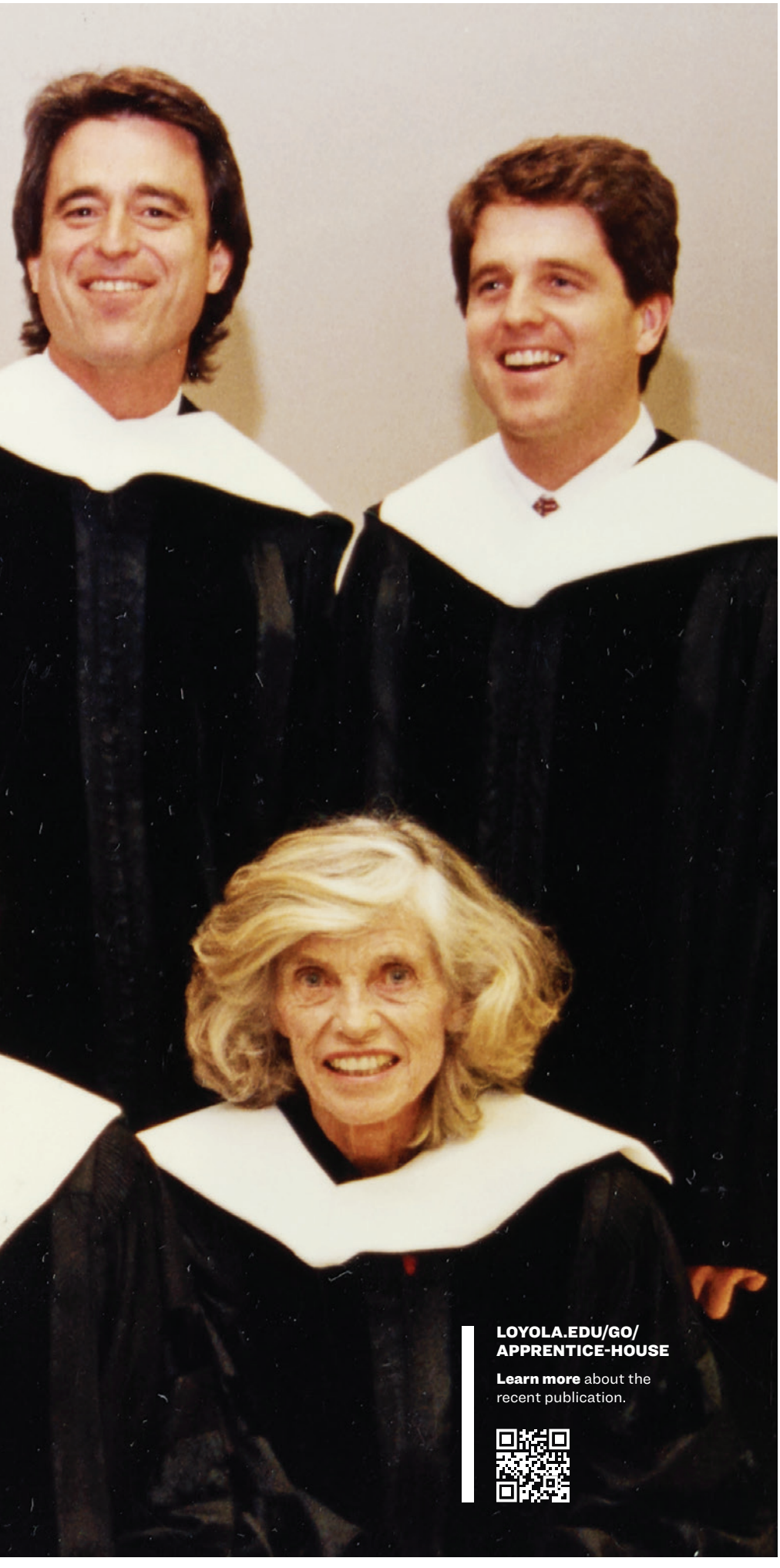
The Govans Farmers Market has provided the York Road community with produce that is affordable, fresh, and local for 15 years and counting.

Right: In 1994, Loyola awarded honorary degrees to all seven Shrivers. Back row, from left: Timothy, Maria, Anthony, Bobby, and Mark. Front row, from left: Sargent and Eunice.

Below: Sargent Shriver was awarded the Andrew White Medal by Loyola in 1964.



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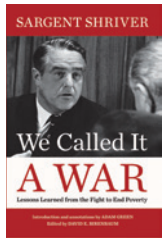
LOYOLA.EDU/GO/APPRENTICE-HOUSE

Learn more about the recent publication.

VINTAGE

SERVICE: IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN AND LIAM DAVIS



This past spring, Loyola's Apprentice House Press published a new edition of Sargent Shriver's memoir, *We Called It a War: Lessons Learned from the Fight to End Poverty*. The publication of this book that was recently rediscovered by the family throws a spotlight on a longstanding relationship between Loyola University Maryland and the Shrivers.

Back in 1964, Sargent Shriver was awarded Loyola's prestigious Andrew White Medal. Thirty years later, his wife, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, delivered the Commencement speech to Loyola's Class of 1994. "In the end, it will be the servants who will save us all," she said, quoting her husband as she encouraged the graduating students to live a life of service.

That year Loyola made the remarkable decision to award honorary degrees to an entire family—all seven Shrivers: Eunice, Sargent, and their five children, Bobby, Maria, Timothy, Mark, and Anthony.

The Shrivers, whose family members are known for their leadership in creating the Peace Corps and Special Olympics, also founded the Shriver Center, a consortium of colleges—including Loyola—that tried to bring academics and community service together.

Recognizing the value of that work, Loyola also honored the Shriver Center's Choice Program with the Milch Community Partnership Award in 1992. Mark Shriver delivered the 2014 Commencement Address and received the President's Medal from the University that year. And in 2026, he collaborated with Apprentice House to publish his father's book.

"Working with Apprentice House Press is important for us," he said. "The fact that the press is student-run is significant...Their approach is very much in line with how our father thought about empowering people, as he describes in *We Called It a War*."

Family

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Lisa Mazzuca, '91, in front of Artemis II capsule "Integrity" after capture in the Navy ship well deck.

LOYOLA.EDU/GO/ALUMNI-PROFILES

Read more about Mazzuca's NASA career.



COURTESY OF LISA MAZZUCA, '91.

ALUMNI PROFILE

OUT OF THIS WORLD SUCCESS

LISA MAZZUCA, '91, PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN NASA'S ARTEMIS II MISSION

BY LANDON EVANSON

For 10 days in April 2026, NASA's Artemis II mission captivated the world. It was the first crewed spaceflight to conduct a lunar flyby in half a century. Its astronauts also traveled farther from Earth than anyone in human history—more than 250,000 miles—testing deep space systems and laying the groundwork for future Moon landings.

At the heart of the mission's successful conclusion was **Lisa Mazzuca, '91**. As NASA's search and rescue mission office chief, Mazzuca played a pivotal role as Artemis II re-entered Earth's atmosphere and splashed down in the Pacific Ocean. Mazzuca and her team operated 24/7 on a console at Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) in Maryland, at Mission Control in Houston, Texas, and on the ship awaiting Artemis II's return.

"I was the one on the bridge who provides the capsule location and astronaut locations if they had to egress from the ship, so my first thought was, 'is the capsule on a nominal trajectory?'" said Mazzuca, who has three-and-a-half decades of experience with GSFC. "The good thing there is that NASA Mission Control tracks the capsule throughout the mission and knew where it was supposed to splash down, so we knew approximately where to look in the sky.

"So, I'm looking, looking, and then I see a tiny object off the bow of the ship with some orange above it," Mazzuca said, which prompted "the biggest sigh of relief. It's hard to see such an object on the ocean a couple of miles away."

Mazzuca and her team had antennas pointed toward the west coast to pick up satellites with search and rescue payloads between the east and west coast. The data was beamed down to GSFC, and a location was calculated. From there, they transferred the data to Mission Control and the ship using a graphical location tool that Mazzuca's team had built.

A year before Artemis II launched, Mazzuca and her team wrote nominal and contingency-related operational procedures, ensuring they knew how to interface with NASA Mission Control. After many months of simulations, the team was able to plan for all potential problems with the ground station at GSFC as well as the higher-level mission problems at Mission Control. Most importantly, they were able to present the capsule's real-time coordinates to the Navy ship charged with finding the capsule and recovering the astronauts.

"Technology is a roadmap to increasing lives saved," Mazzuca said.

Mazzuca's preparation for the Artemis II mission began with her days at Loyola. She took a physics class with **Brother Guy Consolmagno, S.J.**, then a visiting faculty member and now director *emeritus* of the Vatican Observatory, and she realized how she could apply her mathematics major. "His guidance was clear, and his faith was interwoven with astronomy, something many people struggle to unify."

Mazzuca connected with NASA when the organization came to the Evergreen campus to conduct interviews. "My path was set, and it's been a great career that I will look back on fondly once I retire."

Mazzuca credits her success not only to her talents and ingenuity, but also because the University prepares students for lives of service and significance.

"I see Loyola as the spark that put me on the path I was meant to be on—from the professors that I had very strong connections to...and who helped give me confidence to excel in my classes to the strong theology and philosophy viewpoints I needed to round out the STEM road I was on," said Mazzuca, giving a special shout-out to **Anne Young, Ph.D.**, professor *emeritus* of mathematics and statistics. "I think the combination was needed to best get me to understand a larger picture of humanity and make me capable of eventually being a leader."

GIVING NEWS

Fueling the Future

RIZZOS' GIFT ENHANCES CAREER READINESS AND FACULTY FORMATION

BY LIAM DAVIS



LARRY CANNER

A $3 million gift from Kelly Bryan Rizzo, '98, and Dan Rizzo, '99, will strengthen student career preparation and faculty formation at Loyola through the endowment of key programs.

The gift establishes the Rizzo Family Internship Coordinator, the Rizzo Family Fund for Faculty and Staff Formation, and the Rizzo Family Career Center Faculty Fellows program—expanding opportunities for students to gain meaningful professional experience and deepening faculty engagement with Loyola's mission and the Rizzo Career Center.

"Dan and Kelly exemplify the 'strong truths well lived' by our graduates," said President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D. "Their generous and thoughtful support ensures our students are well equipped to lead lives of success and significance."

The Rizzos' latest contribution builds on their longstanding support of Loyola, including a $2 million pledge during the *Bright Minds, Bold Hearts* campaign to name the Rizzo Career Center.

The internship coordinator will connect students with professional opportunities, helping prepare them for careers after graduation.

LOYOLA.EDU/GO/RIZZO-GIFT

Learn more about the Rizzos' recent gift.

"For students who may not have been exposed to different work environments growing up, internships are key," said Kelly Rizzo. "They help students understand what their opportunities are and where their passions lie."

The gift also supports faculty and staff formation programs that strengthen Loyola's Catholic identity and mission, and the faculty fellows program will provide stipends and program costs for engaging faculty in the Rizzo Career Center.

"Faculty are the bridge to our students," said Dan Rizzo. "When faculty keep the mission front and center, the rest will follow."

ALUMNI PROFILE

HEART OF THE CITY

SEDRICK SMITH, PH.D., '05, M.ED. '15, RETURNS TO HIS *ALMA MATER* AS PRINCIPAL

BY JESS MAYHUGH, M.A. '19

Sedrick Smith, Ph.D., '05, M.Ed. '15, has gone by many names. Growing up in Southwest Baltimore, he was Lil Smitty. As a teacher at his *alma mater,* Baltimore City College, he was just Smitty. Now, returning to the school as principal after earning his doctorate, he is Dr. Smith.

"I'm not trying to big time anyone or puff my chest," Smith said with a wide smile, donned head to toe in City black and orange, including the frames of his glasses. "But I wanted to make it clear that I wasn't coming back the same, that I have learned a lot."

From a young age, Smith prioritized academics. His working-class parents (his dad a roofer, his mom a baker) never went to college, but they were committed to him going. He recalled feeling like an outlier in what he calls "the poorest zip code in Baltimore."

"My friends would say, 'Little Smitty, go home. Go study,'" he remembered. "They were protective. I wanted to hang with those guys, but I was never that kid. I had both parents at home, and they cared. That's the thing. As a teacher, that is still very much the thing."

Smith is quick to credit the women in his life, including his fifth grade teacher who inspired him to think beyond his neighborhood bubble as well as his predecessor as City College principal, Cindy Harcum, who taught him 11th grade English. "She never had to yell," he said. "She taught me you can lead with grace and humility, and that will command respect."

Smith arrived at Loyola from Syracuse University in 2003 to study history closer to home. As a transfer student from a giant, secular school, Smith was nervous. "I do practice Christianity, but I'm not an every Sunday kind of guy," he said. "But Jesuits do a really good job of not forcing their beliefs on you. It's very mission-driven, very inclusive."

He was so taken that he returned to Loyola to get his M.Ed. in Literacy. An adolescent literacy class with **Afra Ahmed Hersi, Ph.D.**, now dean of the School of Education, hooked him. For his capstone project, he conducted a study on Black boys in advanced programs and presented the throughlines to their success. "School has always been my happy place," he said. "I found that spark again at Loyola. It was Dean Hersi who said you have to keep going with this work."

And he has—for 21 years in Baltimore City Public Schools and counting. This fall, he will leave his position as principal of Fallstaff Elementary/Middle School to be principal of City College.

"I'm walking into a school that doesn't need an overhaul," he said. "We need tweaks." Some of those include using a more data-driven approach, supporting the growing Latinx population, mentoring Black students to take advanced classes, and starting a training program for student-athletes.

He proudly rattles off City College alumni (former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke, former Maryland Governor and Baltimore Mayor William Donald Schaefer, writer Lawrence Burney, and activist Makayla Gilliam-Price) that he wants his students to emulate.

"You can be a kid from Cherry Hill or Sandtown or wherever, be yourself, and excel," he said. "There are so many oddballs here, and that's what makes us so special."

The values from Loyola—where he serves on the School of Education's Board of Advisors and as an affiliate faculty member—are never far from Smith. Quite literally. Both of his arms are adorned with tattoos—and he wants his next one to say *"cura personalis."*

"Care for the whole person," he said. "I took that from Loyola. We have a responsibility to give back and make our impact broad."



COURTESY OF SEDRICK SMITH, PH.D., '05, M.ED. '15.

LOYOLA.EDU/GREYHOUND-AUTHORS

Find a list of recent titles by Greyhound authors.

AUTHOR Q&A: MAURA MCGEE, ’92

IT IS WHAT IT IS: A WIDOW’S JOURNEY OF SEEKING SOLACE THROUGH FAITH, FAMILY, AND FRIENDS

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, ’23



After losing her husband, **Maura (Farley) McGee, ’92**, found herself navigating life as an unexpected single mother of six. What began as a private way to process unimaginable loss became a source of encouragement, inspiring her to share the story that carried her family through their darkest days. Her book, *It Is What It Is: A Widow’s Journey of Seeking Solace Through Faith, Family, and Friends*, reflects on loss, healing, and resilience.

Your book grew from private journal entries. Why did you decide to share them?

After losing my mom unexpectedly and my husband two years later, I often supported others through tough times. Everyone told me, “Maura, you should write a book.” I resisted for a long time but eventually took it as a sign to begin. My journal entries were random streams of consciousness that helped me process. By turning them into a story of my grief journey, I could write honestly about loss, raising six children through crisis, cancer, and learning to live after losing my high school sweetheart.

What kept you grounded during difficult moments?

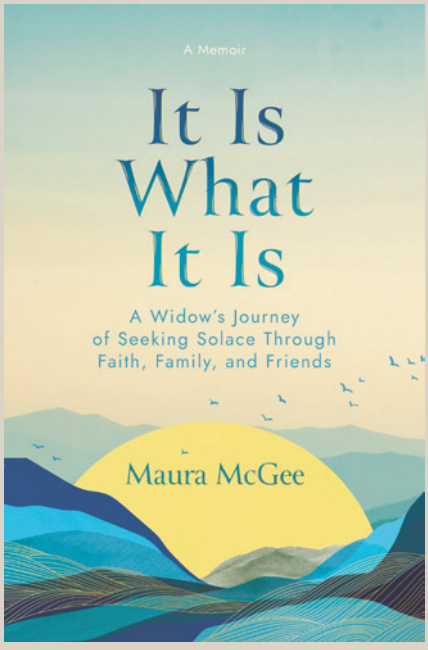
Faith gave me something to lean on when everything else seemed to be falling apart. In the midst of crisis, a priest friend encouraged me to keep going through the motions—pray, go to Mass, and receive the sacraments. He reminded me that faith is strongest when you’re being carried.

How can we show up for others in meaningful ways?

It’s hard to know what to say or do when someone is in crisis. Most importantly, just be there. Show up, really listen, and share memories of the person who passed. Almost 15 years since my mom died, I still love when someone shares a story about her.

How did Loyola shape the way you lean on community?

Loyola’s motto, “Strong Truths Well Lived,” prepares students to face life’s challenges by using what they learn to help others. My family survived because of the love from our faith community, family, and friends. Sometimes in life it’s your time to help others, and sometimes it’s time to accept the gift of humility from the Holy Spirit so you can receive support.



What message do you hope readers take away?

My book doesn’t offer answers. I simply share our story and my grief journey, hoping to honor Dave’s suffering and help others feel less alone. The most heartwarming gift is hearing that my book brought readers comfort and that they shared it with a friend who needed it. We will all experience love and loss. I hope my story provides solace to those in pain, and ultimately, hope.

COURTESY OF MAURA MCGEE, ’92.

OTHER LOYOLA AUTHORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Splendidly Sawsan, Author: **Razan Abdin, M.Ed. ’13**

Tell Me This: Voices, Stories, and Scholarship of Belonging, Co-authors: **Carey Borkoski, Ph.D.**, associate professor of education specialties, and **Brianne Higgins Roos, Ed.D., ’01, M.S. ’04**, associate professor of speech-language-hearing sciences

Sophie Said, Author: **Gabriella Gizzo, ’16**

Plunkitt of Tammany Hall: The Annotated Edition, Authors: **Kevin Hula, Ph.D.**, associate professor of political science, and **Douglas Harris, Ph.D.**, professor of political science

Return of the Fathers, Author: **William Kitchin, Ph.D.**, professor *emeritus* of political science

Red Thread: Thea Tapestry, Author: **Elesa Knowles, ’16**

Rockie: Triumph of True Love, Author: **Alexandra Reed Lajoux, Ph.D., MBA ’81**

Rainbow Slide Ocean Ride, Author: **Krista McKenzie, ’19**

Canyon of Stars: A Book of Prayer in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Author: **Ronnie Smith, ’77**

The Lily of the East: A Book of Eastern Catholic Prayer in Honor of the Most Holy Theotokos, Author: **Ronnie Smith, ’77**

Inca Garcilaso de la Vega: Literary Genealogies of an Indigenous Intellectual in Nineteenth-Century Peru, Author: **Thomas Ward, Ph.D.**, professor *emeritus* of modern languages and literatures

It’s Good to Be Lost Once in a While, Author: **Robert Wicks, Ph.D.**, professor *emeritus* of pastoral counseling

Educating the Exhausted: Adolescent Sleep and the Struggle for a Later School Start, Co-author: **Amy R. Wolfson, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology

Family Class Notes

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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


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1966

Larry Stevenson was inducted into the Calvert Hall College High School Alumni Hall of Fame at the school's gala on March 21, 2026.

1980

Joseph Baker, M.Ed. '84, who died in April 2026, was honored posthumously in June 2026 as an affiliated member of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools. The distinction is the highest honor bestowed upon a lay colleague by the Christian Brothers. Baker served Calvert Hall College High School for 46 years, including most recently as director of advancement.

1987

1 **Kathy (Cunningham) Kotchick** was named one of *Education Insider Magazine's* Top 10 Heads of School for 2026. Kotchick is the head of French International School of Philadelphia.

1993

2 **Krista (Haun) Phillips** was appointed M&T Bank's Delaware regional president.

1995

9 **Eileen Simonson Hiebler (M.A. '25)**, **Meg Bradley Kawan**, and **Maureen Adolph Furletti** completed the Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway Law Women's Philadelphia Triathlon in July 2026.

2000

Sue (Boreski) Wilchusky (MBA) was named chief administrative officer of Fiduciary Trust International, a global wealth manager and wholly owned subsidiary of Franklin Templeton.

2009

3 **Elizabeth (Ferrara) Latino** was named chief operating officer and managing director at Marino, a leading national strategic communications firm.

2014

4 **Tiana D. Wynn, MBA**, a partner at SB & Company, won The Arc Baltimore's annual Volunteer Service Award in June 2026.

2017

8 **Jordan and Lauren (Schneider) Bondyra, M.A. '22**, welcomed Paul Melvin on Pi Day, March 14, 2026.

James Kevin Kelly married Kelsey Jane Brown at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Philadelphia in July 2026.

2019

5 **Reed Nation (MAcc '20)** and **Julia Mulry, '20**, were married at the Alumni Memorial Chapel on May 2, 2026.

Adam Pearson was named vice president of client experience at Nirvana Solutions.

2020

6 **Sarah Kujala** and Kyle Kent were married on May 31, 2025, in Loyola's Alumni Memorial Chapel. **Carolina Meza** was a member of the wedding party. Kujala also graduated with her Doctor of Osteopathy degree from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine in May 2025.

7 Annie and **Brian Robeson (MBA)** welcomed their children, Barrett and Charlotte, on Jan. 5, 2026.

10 **Jay** and **Grace (Huckenpoehler) Venit, '19, MAT '20**, were married in Loyola's Alumni Memorial Chapel on May 2, 2026.

Family In Memoriam



Inge Heyer, Ph.D., teaching professor of physics, died in June 2026 at age 65. Heyer joined Loyola's faculty in 2012 as a senior lecturer and was promoted to teaching professor in 2023. She taught physics and astronomy in the Messina, Honors, and Elementary Education programs and inspired more than 1,000 students through her Introduction to the Universe course. Before she joined Loyola, her career included working at the Space Telescope Science Institute on Hubble Space Telescope imagery and leading science outreach for Hawaii's Joint Astronomy Center. A native of Berlin, Germany, Heyer earned her Ph.D. in Science Education from the University of Wyoming in Laramie.



Jeffrey A. Nattans, '89, member of Loyola's Board of Trustees and Athletics Hall of Fame, died Sept. 2, 2026, at age 59. A two-sport student-athlete in soccer and basketball, Nattans earned national Academic All-America honors and an NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship before playing professional soccer for the Maryland Bays. He joined Loyola's Board of Trustees in 2019 after serving as chair of the Sellinger School of Business and Management's Board of Sponsors. A certified public accountant, he was a partner at Black Diamond Financial. Nattans and his wife, **Karen, '91**, generously supported Loyola scholarships and athletics. He is survived by Karen, their son, **Spencer, '23**, and his parents.



Phoebe D. Sharkey, Ph.D., professor *emerita* of operations management, died April 6, 2026, at age 84. Sharkey joined Loyola's faculty in 1985 and spent more than three decades teaching before retiring in 2017. She helped the Sellinger School of Business and Management achieve AACSB accreditation and established a healthcare center within the business school. Sharkey was among the first women to earn a Master of Science degree with a concentration in Russian Area Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service before working for the CIA.



James J. Snow, Ph.D., assistant teaching professor *emeritus* of philosophy, died Jan. 21, 2026, at age 69. Snow taught philosophy at Loyola for nearly four decades after joining the University as an adjunct in 1988. Upon retiring in 2025, he became the first *emeritus* teaching faculty member in the department's history. He served as faculty co-director of Messina and taught courses that reflected his passion for justice. He earned a teaching certification through Loyola and went on to teach in Loyola's School of Education. He is survived by his wife, **Dale Snow, Ph.D.**, associate professor of philosophy, and their daughter, **Cordelia, '13**; he was predeceased by his son, Carlyle.

Jack Horrigan, Jr., '49, April 2026

Harry Beck, Jr., '50, January 2026

Jerry Semerad, Jr., '52, March 2026

The Hon. Raymond Thieme, Jr., '52, April 2026

Jim Gumnick, Ph.D., '53, April 2026

Edward Kelly, DDS, '53, May 2026

Rabbi Herman Press, M.Ed. '55, February 2026

Fred Schildwachter, '57, May 2026

Mick Kilchenstein, M.D., '58, February 2026

Jim Teabo, '59, March 2026

Eula Gray, M.Ed. '60, March 2026

Douglas McCulloh, '60, May 2026

Bill Bauernschub, Jr., '61, M.Ed. '81, March 2026

James Foley, Jr., '61, March 2026

Rabbi Phillip Labowitz, M.Ed. '61, May 2026

Frank Wieczynski, '61, May 2026

Rev. Richard Kunzman, M.Ed. '62, February 2026

Samuel Deblase, '63, June 2026

Daniel Doherty, '63, March 2026

Michael Lang, '63, February 2026

Tom McInnes, DDS, '63, March 2026

Sam Amato, '64, January 2026

Andrew Stritch, '64, March 2026

Denny Voith, '64, May 2026

Paul Cashour, '65, MBA '82, April 2026

Al Gigliotti, '65, February 2026

Len Andrews, Ph.D., '66, March 2026

Denny Palmer, '66, March 2026

Doug Stouffer, '66, March 2026

Denny Wilson, '66, February 2026

Pat (Bloxham) McCall-Paquin, M.Ed. '67, January 2026

Mike Gillease, '68, May 2026

Kenneth Moore, '68, April 2026

Most Rev. Fred Nijem, M.Ed. '69, May 2026

Helen Twilley, M.Ed. '69, March 2026

Bernard Helinski, '70, February 2026

Andy Katz, '70, March 2026

Joseph Pfaff, M.Ed. '70, May 2026

Sarah Smith, M.Ed. '70, January 2026

Allison (Davids) McGlone, '71, M.Ed. '94, May 2026

William Ebaugh, Jr., '72, March 2026

John Elmore, M.Ed. '72, January 2026

Terry Burd, MBA '73, February 2026

Dick Johnson, MBA '73, January 2026

Joe Polce, M.Ed. '73, February 2026

Stephen Tabeling III, '73, April 2026

Gary Wilson, '73, March 2026

Sue (Margolis) Dagurt, '74, March 2026

Bill Duncan, '74, April 2026

Dan Kegel, M.D., '74, April 2026

Chris Valenti, '74, February 2026

Anna (Davis) Boston, M.Ed. '75, May 2026

Richard Gannon, MBA '75, March 2026

Joann Iglehart, M.Ed. '75, January 2026

Wayne Robinson, '75, May 2026

Curt Ketter, '76, January 2026

Marianne (Coleman) Letavish, '76, March 2026

Dan O'Connell, '76, January 2026

Frederick Schmuff IV, '76, February 2026

Deborah J. Clarke, '77, May 2026

Mary (Pruett) Mikush, M.Ed. '77, February 2026

Mary (Morrissey) Pascoe, '77, January 2026

Lawrence Townsley, MBA '78, February 2026

Nancy (Ressler) Varner, M.Ed. '78, February 2026

Wayne Wittik, '78, May 2026

Joe Baker, '80, M.Ed. '84, April 2026

Lynette (Davis) Cohen, M.S. '80, May 2026

Cindy (Dix) Johnson, '80, February 2026

Sr. Joan McCann, M.Ed. '80, April 2026

Bill Reid, '80, January 2026

Scott Reilly, '80, April 2026

Richard Sheppard, '80, January 2026

Bob Snyder, M.Ed. '80, April 2026

Teresa (Sopka) Williams, M.S. '80, March 2026

Rick Crouse, '81, February 2026

Pete Srsic, '82, January 2026

Ronald Cox, MBA '83, February 2026

Leon Bridges, Sr., MBA '84, April 2026

Mike Karsner, MSF '84, March 2026

Hildegard Owens, '84, January 2026

Family In Memoriam *(Continued)*

Louis Sergi, Jr., MBA ’84, February 2026

David Sigwart, ’84, February 2026

Sam Beardsley, MBA ’85, March 2026

Heather Cirelli, M.S. ’85, April 2026

Dan Devenny, ’85, January 2026

Lenore (Los) Huffman, MBA ’85, April 2026

Lorri Lechlinski, ’85, February 2026

David Scheve, MBA ’85, April 2026

Jan Young, M.Ed. ’85, March 2026

Almira (Peterson) Vollmer, M.A. ’86, February 2026

Paula (Hayes) Preziotti, MBA ’87, March 2026

Bev (Koogle) Mondloch, M.S. ’89, April 2026

Rev. Gary Bilbie, M.S. ’90, May 2026

Ellen (Parker) Karner, MBA ’90, February 2026

Carol (Battilana) Rothermel, M.Ed. ’90, May 2026

William Martiner, ’91, June 2026

Amy Masley, M.A. ’91, June 2026

Thomas Nagle, MBA ’91, April 2026

David Posner, MBA ’91, January 2026

Mary (Francis) Sayre, M.Ed. ’92, January 2026

Fred Florian, Jr., MBA ’93, March 2026

Ronald May II, MES ’93, April 2026

Marilyn (Tracy) Coliano, M.Ed. ’95, January 2026

Sandra (Dickson) Hamilton, M.S. ’95, March 2026

Boyd Moore, Jr., M.S. ’95, January 2026

Margie (Applebee) Ford, M.S. ’96, January 2026

Charles Hicks, MES ’96, April 2026

William Tarrant, M.S. ’96, March 2026

Michele (Ahern) Eye, M.Ed. ’97, April 2026

Myra (Martin) MacCuaig, M.S. ’97, April 2026

Betty Quimby-Demmler, M.S. ’97, May 2026

James Burnett, ’98, April 2026

Br. Joseph Mahon, M.S. ’98, January 2026

Nancy (Dressel) Wagner, M.Ed. ’98, January 2026

Celia (Mudge) Stevens, M.S. ’99, March 2026

Peggy (Smith) Fisher, M.A. ’01, March 2026

Jaime Magnuson, ’04, February 2026

Liz (Dennis Dunn) Bauer, ’05, February 2026

Keri (Farrell) Thomas, ’06, March 2026

John Trancucci, MBA ’08, April 2026

Treva (Page) Boney, M.A. ’15, March 2026

Darry Coverson, MBA ’23, January 2026

Steph Titterton, MAcc ’24, May 2026

Timothy LeFebrve, ’26, July 2026

GREYHOUND GURU

HOW TO TAKE A GREAT PHOTO

JULIA D’AGOSTINO PIERCE, ’17, PHOTOGRAPHER

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, ’23



A former communication major with a photography specialization, Julia D’Agostino Pierce, ’17, photographs everything from curated spaces to everyday moments. Her interior and lifestyle photography has appeared in publications such as *New England Home, Woman’s Day,* and *HGTV Magazine*. She credits fine arts professors Jon Malis, MFA, and Dan Schlapbach, MFA, along with her senior exhibition at the Julio Fine Arts Gallery, for shaping her creative approach.

HERE ARE D’AGOSTINO PIERCE’S TIPS FOR TAKING MEMORABLE PHOTOS.

TIP 1

Capture What Matters

Always take the photo when it has the power to transport you back to a memory. D’Agostino Pierce’s favorite photo is one she took while she was pregnant, showing a cherry blossom tree in her parents’ yard. The image reminds her of childhood and now hangs in her daughter’s bedroom.

TIP 2

Add Visual Interest

Add a foreground element or change your perspective. Shoot from above, below, or through your surroundings; take an extra moment to find the viewpoint that adds depth and creates a compelling image. There is no wrong angle—only the one you like the most.

TIP 3

Keep It Natural

Like a nurse distracting a child before a shot, keep photography sessions conversational. Naturally guide your subject without over-directing. The more relaxed the environment, the more they’ll realize being photographed isn’t so bad!

TIP 4

Play With the Settings

Experiment with your phone’s different focal lengths instead of defaulting to Portrait mode. Try other settings too, like adjusting exposure or using Live Photo.

TIP 5

Trust Your Vision

Photographer Joel Meyerowitz shares, “Once you have a camera in your hand, you have a license to see.” The camera you use does not matter. Your photos will be shaped by your creativity and perspective.

JULIA D’AGOSTINO PIERCE, ’17

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MEET SOME CLASS OF 2026 ROCK STARS

WE'RE SO PROUD OF OUR MOST RECENT GRADUATES—AND KNEW YOU WOULD BE TOO. HEAR ABOUT A FEW OF THEIR JOURNEYS.

Driven by her passion for journalism, Tyra Alexander wrote for Loyola's student-run newspaper, *The Greyhound;* the literary magazine, *Corridors;* and Loyola's chapter of Her Campus. This fall, Alexander is attending Georgetown University to pursue a master's in public relations and corporate communications, while continuing an internship at Events DC.

Tyra Alexander, '26
English major with a journalism specialization





Andres Pena double-majored in sustainability management and international business, with a minor in political science. He got involved with Loyola's Office of Sustainability and Center for Community, Service, and Justice, which deepened his love for Baltimore. This fall, Pena will pursue a Master of Urban Planning at New York University, continuing his passion for building more sustainable and equitable communities.

Andres Pena, '26
First-generation Sellinger graduate

Mairead James received a graduate scholarship for her Jesuit Volunteer Corps service from the Council of Academic Programs in Communication Sciences and Disorders. She was elected president of Loyola's graduate chapter of the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association and awarded the graduate program's Dr. Bernard A. Saltysiak Medal for clinical excellence. She is completing her clinical fellowship at University of Maryland Medical System.

Mairead James, '23, M.S. '26
Double Greyhound with a master's in speech-language pathology





Tara Larson completed field experiences with Baltimore City and Baltimore County public schools and managed her own classroom senior year. Larson also presented research at Loyola's annual Undergraduate Research Colloquium, where her project earned third place. This fall, Larson is attending Teachers College at Columbia University while serving as an associate teacher in Manhattan.

Tara Larson, '26
Elementary education graduate with dual licensure in special education

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Read more about our Graduating Greyhounds on Loyola's Instagram.