

# LOYOLA

LOYOLA  
UNIVERSITY  
MARYLAND  
MAGAZINE

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**IN THEIR CORNER**

A Messina professor  
guides students toward  
professional success

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**CRACKING CASES,  
SEEKING TRUTH,  
SERVING JUSTICE**

Behind the  
scenes of Loyola's  
forensics program

2023  
Issue // Spring



**BENDING TOWARD  
SOCIAL  
JUSTICE**

Karsonya "Kaye" Wise  
Whitehead, Ph.D.



HOWARD KORN

## SCENE

### CELEBRATING A NEW CHAPTER

Members of the Loyola and Jesuit communities, local and state officials, and higher education leaders from throughout the country gathered Oct. 9-12, 2022, to celebrate the inauguration of Loyola's 25th president, **Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D.**

"This ceremony is a celebration. And this celebration is not about me—it's about us," Sawyer said in his address at the Inaugural Convocation on Oct. 12 in a packed Reitz Arena. "It's about this incredible university we all believe in and love so passionately. It's about each of you and the role you play individually and together while writing the next chapter in Loyola's history. Today gives us the chance to reflect, a chance to dream, and a chance to look forward to all we can achieve together."

**"May President Sawyer's answer to a call inspire each of us. Infused by the Spirit and loved by our Creator, let us embrace this moment as a time of renewal, a time of opportunity, and a time of hope."**

Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J., special assistant to the president for mission integration, closed the Convocation with a prayer

**LOYOLA.EDU/  
INAUGURATION**

Relive the inauguration through video and photos.



## VIEW FROM THE PORCH

**W**hen people ask me what it's like to be president, I tell them that I have a "pinch myself" moment every day. More than a year into this role, I can assure you that is still true—and that I am honored and grateful to be the president of this university we love.

This is an exciting time for Loyola, and you can feel the energy. As we envision the future, our community has shared stories and experiences to establish the footprint of where we are—and to consider where we can go from here. Over the next few months, we will work together to innovate, dream big, and be bold. As we create our next strategic plan and bring it to life, you will have a front-row seat. We look forward to sharing those stories with you here in *Loyola* magazine.

Loyola is a university steeped in Jesuit tradition and values. It's those values and a commitment to educating leaders for our diverse and changing world that have guided us in recent years to invest in two of the initiatives you'll read about in this issue: the creation of the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice and the addition of our forensic science program. Both extend the exceptional Jesuit, liberal arts education Loyola offers and enrich our community intellectually and ethically, helping prepare our students to be the leaders our world needs.

As a university, we will be identifying ways we can intentionally live out our mission more fully, ensure our students are both supported and challenged, strengthen our University in the most important ways, and best position Loyola to be competitive in an increasingly crowded marketplace.

When the Board of Trustees interviewed me for this job not so long ago, I told them that I have a deep passion for this place that just won't quit, and that hasn't changed. It has only grown. I believe in us, and I believe in the amazing things we are going to do together in the years ahead.

Thank you for believing in Loyola with me and for your ongoing support of our University.

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



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**Vice President for Advancement**  
Brian M. Oakes, '99, MBA '10

**Chief Marketing Officer**  
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**Design**  
Skelton Sprouls

**Director of Creative Design**  
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**Director of University Communications**  
Rita Buettner

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

**Executive Editor**  
Jessica Goldstein

**Class Notes Editor**  
Clarke Jones

**Project Manager**  
Julie Pettit

**Athletics**  
Ryan Eigenbrode

**Archivist**  
Jennifer Kinniff

### Additional Contributing Writers

Andrew Aldrich  
Claire Hoffman, '07  
Melissa Leddy  
George Matysek, '94  
Brianna Yacovelli, '21, M.A. '22

**Photographers**  
Nick Alexopoulos, '03, MBA '16  
John Coyle, '88  
Howard Korn  
Christopher Myers  
Scott Suchman  
Louis Umerlik, '96

**COVER:**  
Baltimore artist Calvin Coleman created this painting of Karsonya Whitehead, Ph.D., for *Loyola* magazine.

**LEFT:**  
PHOTO BY RYAN DONNELL  
President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., can often be seen walking and talking with students on campus.



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Visit *Loyola* magazine for enhanced content and web extras. Contact us at [magazine@loyola.edu](mailto:magazine@loyola.edu).

## NEWS FROM LOYOLA

# CCSJ: JUSTICE IN ACTION

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF LOYOLA'S CENTER FOR COMMUNITY, SERVICE, AND JUSTICE

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

When **Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.**, came to Loyola to teach law and social responsibility in 1987, Loyola was establishing an annual Mexico service trip through Campus Ministry. It was clear, however, that there was also a need and interest in “serving in our own backyard.”

“The Center for Community, Service, and Justice is the connector between the campus, community, and the city of Baltimore and beyond, with a focus on the York Road corridor. We put faith in action by integrating our Jesuit values and providing people practical ways to get involved as we walk with our partners as collaborators.”

Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr.PH., executive director for Loyola's Center for Community, Service, and Justice

Fr. Brown helped Loyola develop partnerships and programming, and in 1992 he and **Erin Swezey**—the director of Loyola's Community Service Office at the time—co-founded the Center for Values and Service.

“Loyola was one of the first Jesuit schools on the East Coast with a dedicated community service office and with an internship model inviting students to take charge of community-based partnerships and student recruitment,” says

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Fr. Brown, associate professor of law and social responsibility and director of mission integration.

Over the past three decades, the center—now the Center for Community, Service, and Justice (CCSJ)—has grown and evolved into a “one-stop hub for all kinds of pathways for engagement,” says **Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr.PH.**, executive director.

In a typical year before the pandemic, more than 2,500 students and 70 faculty participated in community-engaged courses, legislative internships, volunteering, immersions, community development, advocacy work, and more. The past couple of years have been a time of rebuilding—and positioning for future growth.

Loyola has become a model for place-based initiatives through the York Road Initiative (YRI), with a focus on community development in the neighborhoods adjacent to its Evergreen campus. The YRI works to improve education and youth development, build civic capacity, and strengthen the York Road commercial corridor, including through strong partnerships like with the York Road Partnership.

“CCSJ helped propel me and the York Road Partnership into new territory,” says Donna Blackwell, York Road Partnership president from 2016-20, who further established and gained

A student paints a crab from Baltimore's 2005 Crabtown Project, a public art project and fundraiser for city schools. The crab can be seen today at the weekly Govans Farmers' Market as a reminder of Loyola's commitment to the city.

visibility for the coalition of 20+ neighborhoods, organizations, and nonprofits in part through her advocacy work with city agencies.

“We will continue to find ways to be in solidarity with our neighbors up and down the York Road corridor,” says **Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D.**, president of Loyola who was instrumental in developing and launching the YRI. “I plan to become further involved in working with partners to address issues impacting our city of Baltimore and to help us build on our many strengths, and CCSJ is a critical part of this work.”

In the meantime, CCSJ has proven invaluable for the thousands of students who have participated in its programming, like **Jacob Bierstaker, '23**, a sociology major who has held several CCSJ roles as he's prepared for a career in social work.

“Throughout the last four years I have gained so much perspective, insight, and knowledge around issues of justice and equity and how we can build a better world—many of the values central to our mission of diversity, equity, and inclusion I plan to carry with me for the rest of my life,” Bierstaker says.”

[LOYOLA.EDU/CCSJ](https://LOYOLA.EDU/CCSJ)

Learn more about Loyola's Center for Community, Service, and Justice.



## FLASHBACK



TOP TO BOTTOM:

**1992**  
The Senior Citizen Prom event has bridged generations and brought joy to countless Baltimore residents.

**1993**  
Led by the Class of 1992, Loyola purchased and renovated a house in the Sandtown neighborhood of Baltimore through Habitat for Humanity.

**1995**  
St. Vincent de Paul of Baltimore's Beans and Bread, a resource program for those experiencing homelessness, was an early partner.

PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER M. LYNEH

**2004**  
The Project Mexico trip piqued many students' interests in serving locally.

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Alexa Junikiewicz, '24

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

“My Loyola experience has been transformational. Loyola has enabled me to explore and intertwine my passions for accounting and entrepreneurship—and empowered me to define my own success.”



**Alexa Junikiewicz, '24**, an accounting major from Reading, Pennsylvania, has embraced every

opportunity to learn and grow while at Loyola. She is a career ambassador in the Rizzo Career Center, chief financial officer for the Student Government Association, and vice president of the Loyola Consulting Group. A Sellinger Scholar, she is the student representative on the University's Strategic Planning Steering Committee and will serve as student body president her senior year.

“While all of these roles are different, they allow me to serve and empower those around me,” Junikiewicz said. Her career services colleagues specifically praise her professional service and ability to listen to and support her peers.

Junikiewicz interns with RKL consulting firm and will intern with EY in auditing this summer. After graduation, she plans to obtain her CPA to pursue public accounting and ultimately support people in launching their own successful businesses.

“Alexa is a leader among her classmates because she's smart enough to grasp tough material, dedicated enough to make sure she's mastered it, and compassionate enough to share her knowledge freely,” said **JP Krahel, Ph.D., CPA**, professor of accounting. “I can't wait to see what good she will do for the world.”

ASK THE EXPERT

# THE SCIENCE OF LOVE

Theresa DiDonato, Ph.D., offers insights into the psychology of relationships

By Rita Buettner



Theresa DiDonato, Ph.D., professor of psychology, is co-author of the forthcoming textbook, *The Science of Romantic Relationships*.

Her research focuses on social psychology and relationship science, and she enjoys translating empirical research into accessible language in her popular *Psychology Today* blog, *Meet, Catch, and Keep*, which boasts more than 30 million views to date. Here she provides invaluable wisdom on navigating the inevitable ups and downs with a partner.

### As seniors prepare to graduate, what advice would you give them about navigating romantic relationships in this new chapter of their lives?

Relationships require risks! It can be hard to be vulnerable when you may get hurt. While having a romantic partner is not needed for happiness, if you're relationship-ready and motivated to find a partner, choose wisely and be bold enough to make the first move.

### What advice would you give to any of our readers who are looking to be a better romantic partner—or begin a new romantic relationship?

Healthy relationships give partners a chance to grow as individuals and as partners. Whether you're in a new or established relationship, fostering opportunities for self-growth (called self-expansion) can bring partners closer together. Explore a new city, go bowling or hiking, try a new restaurant. These "date night"

activities can help people grow, and concurrently, feel that their relationship is more satisfying and intimate.

### What is a fun fact about relationships that the reader might not know?

People often think that jealousy is uniformly problematic. In relationship science, we recognize that jealous thoughts, emotions, and behaviors may be an evolved mechanism that, in the right doses, is designed to help keep partners together.

### During a time of busyness and burnout, how can someone set appropriate boundaries, show up, and be a good romantic partner?

As most people probably know, stress that originates outside of a relationship (e.g., work, school, financial stress) can have deleterious effects on the inside of a relationship. It does this by taxing our energy and resources, making it harder for us to manage ongoing, regular relationship problems, while at the same time introducing new problems into a relationship.

Having a supportive partner, someone who validates and understands the stress we're under, helps to reduce the adverse impact of the stress on your relationship. In addition, finding ways to maintain affectionate communication during stressful times can go a long way to protecting relationships from the problems of stress. Maybe you don't have the energy to talk about the problem, but a hug or other nonverbal expressions of love or affection might soothe the effects of your stress.

“Healthy relationships give partners a chance to grow as individuals and as partners.”

Theresa DiDonato, Ph.D., professor of psychology

### Loyola's psychology department recently celebrated its 50th anniversary. How has the scholarly understanding of the psychology of relationships changed—or not—over the past five decades?

Relationship science had a rough beginning. When government funding was provided to study love in the 1970s, people across the country were aghast, thought it was a total waste of money, and sent the researchers hate mail! Luckily, the early visionaries persevered. Today, relationship science is a thriving, multi-disciplinary field.

### How does being at a Jesuit university shape the way you teach your classes and share knowledge about relationships?

I try to appreciate the fact that my students each have their own network of relationships, some healthy and some not, and that their lives are being affected by these relationships in profound ways, every day. Appreciating this facilitates *cura personalis* (care for the whole person) in my teaching.

#### AN ANNIVERSARY GIFT

In celebration of its 50th anniversary at Loyola, the psychology department is raising funds to create annual Commitment to Justice Awards in Psychology. The financial awards would support graduate students enrolled in the Doctorate of Psychology in Clinical Psychology or the Master of Science in Clinical Professional Counseling programs—and who are working with underserved communities. The department is halfway to its initial goal of \$25,000—with an ultimate goal of reaching \$50,000 to endow the awards in perpetuity. Make a gift at [loyola.edu/psych-award](http://loyola.edu/psych-award).



## Notable Thought Leaders



“We need vocabulary words to talk about and process emotions, and even to interact with one another, now that we're out and about and we're with people again.”

Kristina Collins, division clinical instructor and director of literacy for the Loyola Clinical Centers, quoted by WYPR on how younger children benefit from books with visuals that focus on social-emotional learning

“The first question in development now should be ‘Should I make this?’ before we ask, ‘How do I make this?’”

Megan Olsen, Ph.D., professor of computer science, featured in *Tech Guide*



“[The expungement clinic] is a way for our students to interact with members of the community in a beneficial way. Many want to be attorneys, or they are exploring being attorneys, so it is a chance for them to sit with that idea for a day at least and see what kind of good you can do as a lawyer.”

Matt Beverlin, Ph.D., visiting assistant professor of political science, interviewed by the *Daily Record*

“The competition between restaurants makes it very, very hard to voluntarily raise wages, because that might mean pushing up prices a little bit, and in a competitive industry people are just going to eat elsewhere.”

Jeremy Schwartz, Ph.D., professor of economics, interviewed by the *Baltimore Sun*



“Paying off debt should be people's first priority [in early 2023] because whatever happens, good times and bad, the less that's sitting on your back from the past, the more you can look forward to the future.”

JP Krahe, Ph.D., professor of accounting, speaking to WMAR-2 News

“We're actually asking teenagers to do something like take calculus at 7:35 in the morning when we, as adults, would never—could never—do our best at any job at that hour.”

Amy Wolfson, Ph.D., professor of psychology, speaking to WYPR

## Notable Faces of Loyola

### DIANE PARKER

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

"I LOVE THAT LOYOLA IS LIKE A FAMILY AWAY FROM HOME. PEOPLE HERE CARE ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF THE STAFF AND STUDENTS."

#### JUST CALL HER MS. DIANE

Diane Parker's unwavering warmth and beaming smile are as much a part of the Loyola dining experience as breakfast sandwiches and hot coffee. Ms. Diane, as everyone calls her, works as a cashier for Parkhurst Dining, where she has been managing the cash registers, stocking items, and greeting and helping guests at Boulder Café for 19 years.

#### UNSUNG HERO

Parker describes herself as very shy, even though she may not come across that way. One of her more cherished memories from her time at the University is when she was recognized as Loyola's Unsung Hero by the student body. "I've always felt appreciated, but I wasn't expecting that award."



#### OPPORTUNITIES DU JOUR

"A new day means new opportunities," says Parker, an eternal optimist. "Not only do I look forward to coming to work every day, but I also know it's a blessing to still be able to do so at 63 years old."

#### SUNNY SIDE UP

Parker's favorite Boulder Café offering is a breakfast sandwich made by her co-worker, Eric.

#### RAVE REVIEWS

The best thing about Loyola students, Parker says, is that they are hardworking and respectful. "It gives me hope about where our future is going and who our leaders will be." The greatest challenge—and joy—of her job is when her favorite students graduate. "I hate to see them go, but I love to watch them accomplish their goals and obtain their degrees."

#### INTERESTS

Family trips, cookouts, her family's annual brunch, and her monthly night out with long-time (60+ years!) girlfriends.

CHRISTOPHER MYERS

## Notable News



### Film Series Features Local Black Entrepreneurs



Loyola premiered the short film series, *Stories, Context, and Lived Experience of the Black Entrepreneur*, a culmination of an interdisciplinary project between Loyola's innovation and entrepreneurship minor and the African and African American Studies minor, this past fall. Created by Loyola faculty on location in Baltimore, the series captures the personal stories and experiences of Black entrepreneurs in Baltimore.

The first season of the series featured entrepreneurs Laquida Chancey of Smalltimore Homes; Tyrell Dixon of Project Own; Andrew Suggs of Live Chair Health; Ashley Williams of Clymb; and Shelley Halstead of Black Women Build.

### Learn, LEAD, and Serve



Two faculty associates in Loyola's Center for Equity, Leadership, and Social Justice in Education received a \$197,715 grant to educate and train supervisors at Maryland correctional facilities in best practices for interacting with incarcerated people who have developmental disabilities. **Leah Katherine Saal, Ph.D.**, associate professor of literacy education, and **Lisa Schoenbrodt, Ed.D.**, professor of speech-language-hearing sciences, will implement the "LEADing to Learn" training program.

### Loyola Ready for Advancement

**Brian M. Oakes, '99, MBA '10**, was named Loyola's vice president for advancement, effective this past September. In this position, he oversees the offices of advancement, alumni engagement, marketing and communications, and external relations.

Since joining the Loyola administration in 2005, Oakes has taken on increasingly advanced roles for the University, starting as director of alumni relations and most recently serving as associate vice president for advancement.

### NSF Grant to Advance Research

Four faculty members from Loyola's biology department received a \$412,470 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to acquire a specialized cell sorting instrument and launch an innovative flow cytometry core facility that will support Loyola research as well as other local universities and biotech startups. The technology will enable Loyola faculty and students to advance research in many areas of biology including cancer and immunology.

**Theresa Geiman, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biology, leads the project in collaboration with **Derek Kendig, Ph.D.**, associate professor of biology, **Michael Tangrea, Ph.D., '96**, endowed professor of biology and innovation, and **Christopher Thompson, Ph.D.**, professor of biology.

"Funded by Loyola's second National Science Foundation grant this year, the cell sorter enriches our faculty and students, opening doors to new opportunities in education and research."

**Stephen Fowl, Ph.D.**, dean of Loyola College of Arts and Sciences

### Green and Greener

Loyola was named in *The Princeton Review Guide to Green Colleges: 2023 Edition*, which profiles the nation's 455 most environmentally responsible schools and recognizes institutions based on their use of renewable energy, recycling and conservation programs, environmental studies opportunities for students, and career guidance for green jobs. The Princeton Review also recognized Loyola among the nation's top institutions for undergraduates in the *Best 388 Colleges: 2023 Edition* earlier this year.



### Minor Changes, Major Wins

Loyola's Sellinger School of Business and Management introduced three new minors in accounting, management consulting, and supply chain management this past fall.

"As a business school embedded in a liberal arts university, the Sellinger School encourages students to approach their learning from an intentionally interdisciplinary perspective, ensuring deep knowledge and expertise. This allows us to offer students majoring in both business and the liberal arts a tangibly well-rounded undergraduate education—now expanded with three new minors," said **Mary Ann Scully, MBA '79**, dean of the Sellinger School for Business and Management.

### Loyola Faculty Tapped by New Maryland Governor



**Kevin Atticks, '97, DCD**, director of Apprentice House Press and affiliate assistant professor of communication, has been named Maryland's Secretary of Agriculture by Maryland Governor Wes Moore.



**Hung-bin Ding, Ph.D.**, associate dean for academics and professor of management in the Sellinger School, was appointed chair of the Maryland Governor's Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. Ding was first named to the commission in 2015.

### Welcoming New Trustees

Loyola recently named four new trustees to the University's board to include **Susan S. Bloomfield, MBA '94**, **Gerry Geckle, '74**, and **James Lambdin, MSF '83**, who were elected to four-year terms, and **Christian McNeill, '22**, for a two-year term. Bloomfield is the former general manager of Neutrogena Corp; Geckle serves as senior vice president, human resources, at Universal Health Services Inc.; Lambdin is president and CEO of Lambdin Development Co., a real estate development company in Harford and Cecil Counties; and McNeill is a representative of the National Millennial and Gen Z Community.

## Notable Cura Personalis

CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

### IN THEIR CORNER

A MESSINA PROFESSOR GUIDES STUDENTS TOWARD PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS

BY MELISSA LEDDY

When **Andrea Giampetro-Meyer, J.D.**, professor of law and social responsibility, met **Sydney Brooke, '23**, and **Janae James, '22**, she quickly recognized individuals who would benefit from goal-oriented experiential learning.

"They both wanted something meaningful to do," Giampetro-Meyer says of Brooke and James, who were enrolled in her Messina class as part of Loyola's first-year living and learning program.

The COVID-19 pandemic collided with their first year at Loyola, and summer work and internship opportunities vanished for most students.

**"It was clear from the beginning that Professor Giampetro-Meyer wanted to actively knock down barriers related to being a woman in the classroom and in law school."**

Sydney Brooke, '23

Giampetro-Meyer invited them to join her in a legal writing project in the summer of 2020, which produced a law review article published in *The University of Iowa Journal of Race, Gender & Justice*. The article, "How Antiracist Lawyers Can Produce Power and Policy Change," lists both Brooke and James as contributors—a milestone accomplishment for any undergraduate student.

"In every interview I've had, the piece on my résumé that stands out is being published," Brooke explains.

The following summer, in 2021, the three of them teamed up again to co-author "Toward Racially Equitable and

Accountable Tech" for the *Marquette Law Review*.

Both students have looked to Giampetro-Meyer for career advice as they explored the field, taking advantage of the natural ways that Messina offers opportunities for students to connect with faculty.

"She knows the legal world, and it's been very affirming knowing she's in my corner," says Brooke, who grew up in Boxford, Massachusetts, and was always conscious about how being female would influence her life and career. "It was clear from the beginning that Professor Giampetro-Meyer wanted to actively knock down barriers related to being a woman in the classroom and in law school."

For James, her experience and relationship with Giampetro-Meyer has elevated her as a future law school applicant, particularly when it comes to being involved with a school's law journal. "I already know about the process, the format, the ins and outs," she explains.

James—a Middletown, Connecticut, native who earned her B.A. in Psychology and Writing with a minor in political science in December 2022—was involved with Loyola's Pre-Law advisory program, served as secretary of the student-led Pre-Law Society, and held a Congressional Internship with U.S. Senator Chris Murphy. She now works as a legal assistant at Ledyard Law in Baltimore's Inner Harbor, gaining valuable field experience before she begins law school.

Brooke has also benefited from Loyola's Pre-Law program; she serves as president of the Pre-Law Society and is a member of the Alpha Sigma Nu and Pi Sigma Alpha honor societies. Brooke, who interned with ACLU Maryland's legal department, will graduate with a B.A. in Political Science with a minor in business administration in May and has her sights set on law school.

"It's hard to put into words how much Professor Giampetro-Meyer has touched my life—but I hope she knows. [She'll] always hold a special place in my heart and be a core memory of my experience here at Loyola," says James, who adds that she hopes to pay it forward someday.

"Knowing I can impact someone's life the way she has impacted mine is so exciting, and I cannot wait to embark on that role someday." 🗣️



Pictured from bottom left: Andrea Giampetro-Meyer, J.D., professor of law and social responsibility, Janae James, '22, and Sydney Brooke, '23.



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Go online for the latest Greyhounds highlights and schedules.

## RECOGNITION

# NOT JUST A HOOP DREAM

CANARY ISLANDS NATIVE BECOMES FIRST LOYOLA NBA FIRST-ROUND DRAFT PICK

BY RYAN EIGENBRODE

**T**he news of a 6-foot-11 basketball player with guard-like skills who might come to Loyola sent many people scrambling for an atlas.

Where is Gran Canaria, exactly? As the crow flies, Las Palmas is the largest city in the Canary Islands, an archipelago of seven main islands in the Atlantic Ocean. While the Canarias is a municipality of Spain, Gran Canaria sits less than 150 miles off the northwestern coast of Africa.

The area is not exactly a hotbed for basketball recruiting, but Loyola men's basketball staff, in particular Head Coach **Tavaras Hardy** and then-Assistant Coach **Ivo Simović**, knew what they had found. Through connections as a European coach and club director, Simović knew **Santi Aldama's** father, Santiago, a former Spanish National Team player and professional athlete. This connection led to recruiting a player who would become the University's first-ever player to be selected in the NBA Draft's first round.

But first, Aldama would visit Baltimore and the Evergreen campus and see if Loyola was a fit.

"I listened to Coach Hardy, saw Ivo again, and after the first day, I told my dad, 'I think this is my spot,'" Aldama, who is now in his second year playing with the Memphis Grizzlies, said. "When we got to campus, I knew that I wanted to be there. Looking back at that, I couldn't be happier with my decision, and I am so proud of that."

Aldama's preternatural basketball skills were soon on display in practice. He could handle the ball like a guard, shoot like a wing, and defend and post like a traditional big man. A minor knee



NBA/GETTY IMAGES

injury sidelined him for all but the last 10 games of his first year in 2019-20—and yet he averaged 15.2 points and 7.6 rebounds in those contests and earned Patriot League All-Rookie honors.

His transition on the court was made easier by feeling at home on the Evergreen campus. "I never felt away from home. Loyola was my second home," he said.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic interrupted the beginning of his sophomore year, Aldama's name increasingly became part of NBA Draft conversations during the 17 games he played in 2020-21. He led the conference in scoring (21.2) and rebounds (10.1). He earned All-Patriot League First

**"We knew that he had NBA-level skills and would be a tremendous player on the court, but as important was who Santi is as a person. He was extremely dedicated to his studies, and he fully bought into the culture we have created around Loyola basketball."**

Tavaras Hardy, head coach, Loyola men's basketball

Team honors and was named to the Academic All-Patriot League squad with a grade-point average north of 3.6.

"While recruiting Santi, it was evident he was the type of student-athlete we wanted to be a part of our basketball program," Hardy said. "We knew that he had NBA-level skills on the court, but as important was who Santi is as a person. He was extremely dedicated to his studies, and he fully bought into the culture we have created around Loyola basketball."

Notably, his dream of playing professionally was tangible as he was squarely in the sights of NBA front offices. Aldama declared for the NBA Draft after that season and, following months of working out in his native Spain, he sat with his parents, brother, family, friends, Hardy, Simović, and others to watch the NBA Draft on July 29, 2021.

With the draft taking place in New York, it was nearly 3 a.m. on July 30 in Gran Canaria when a hush fell over the room. The Utah Jazz made the final pick of the opening round. Knowing that the pick was going to be immediately traded to the Grizzlies—a team that had expressed high interest in Aldama—the anticipation was high.

"When I heard my name, I had an out-of-body experience," said Aldama. "The next day, when I had time to relax and sit down with my family, I said, 'Wow, this just happened.'"

Aldama immediately flew to Memphis to begin his professional career. He debuted in the NBA Summer League and then saw action in 32 NBA games as a rookie.

Through almost 60 games in his current season, Aldama is averaging more than nine points and almost five rebounds per game while playing a key role in the Grizzlies' rotation as they sit near the top of the NBA Western Conference standings.

"Taking what I have learned from my minutes at Loyola and with the Grizzlies, I focused on my shot and my defense, and that has helped me contribute to this team," Aldama says.

"Confidence is probably more than half of what you're doing. The mind is a very powerful weapon." 🏀

## Greyhounds Pride



### Student-Athletes Lead with Graduation Success

Loyola student-athletes again posted one of the best NCAA Graduation Success Rates (GSR) in NCAA Division I, and the Greyhounds checked in fourth among the 351 schools in the latest report.

The University's GSR has ranked in the top six nationally in all 18 years of the report's existence, with Loyola earning a spot in the 98th or 99th percentile each year. The Greyhounds have had a GSR of 95% or higher each year.

In this year's report, 12 Greyhounds teams had scores of 100%, and Loyola student-athletes cumulatively achieved a 96% GSR.

Loyola's 97% overall GSR ranks first among schools from the State of Maryland.

"Loyola student-athletes are consistently successful in their academic and athletic pursuits, and the most recent Graduation Success Rates once again highlight that reality," said **Donna M. Woodruff**, assistant vice president and director of athletics. "To achieve a Graduation Success Rate that falls among the top four of all NCAA Division I institutions is impressive and truly recognizes the incredible dedication to academic success by the talented student-athletes, faculty, administrators, and staff of Loyola University Maryland."

Loyola attained 100% scores for men's basketball, men's cross country, men's soccer, men's tennis, women's basketball, women's cross country and track and field, women's lacrosse, women's rowing, women's soccer, women's swimming and diving, women's tennis, and women's volleyball. Go Hounds!

### Right on Track

**Jamie Adams, '26**, has made the most of her brief time with the Loyola track and field team. The first-year student opened her indoor track career in December by setting school records in the 60 and 200 meters—only to break them again in January.

Adams, a native of nearby Howard County, Maryland, has been one of the top sprinters in the Patriot League this year heading into the outdoor part of the season.

### Faster than an Olympian

Records are made to be broken. But when **Joe Hayburn** came to the Mangione Aquatic Center on Jan. 15, 2023, to compete in the 84th National Catholic High School Championships, he could never have guessed he would leave with a new pool record.

Even more exciting, the record he broke was set by Olympian and Baltimore native Michael Phelps in 2002. Hayburn's time of 47.61 in the 100-yard backstroke shaved time off Phelps' record of 48.10, set 21 years earlier.

Hayburn, who has signed with the Loyola swimming and diving team as a member of the Class of 2027, is a senior at St. Mary's in Annapolis, Maryland. He will be the fourth of four Hayburn children to attend Loyola and swim for the Greyhounds.





# *Bending Toward*

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice is answering urgent questions about inequality—and empowering a generation of everyday activists.

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN, '07

PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHRISTOPHER MYERS

## When Karsonya “Kaye” Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., was launching Loyola’s Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice two years ago, the professor of communication and African and African American Studies knew she wanted to name it after her father.

Whitehead refers to her father, the Rev. Dr. Carson E. Wise, Sr., as one of the “nameless, faceless foot soldiers” of the civil rights movement, who served as her first social justice teacher. “He’s one of the people who showed up and put in the hard work—but who wasn’t on the stage or in the press,” she explains.

Spotlighting the power of everyday people to change the world is one of Whitehead’s key goals with the Karson Institute, which provides a scholarly space for professors, students, and activists to confront injustice and racial inequity in America. Whitehead—a three-time New York Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker, award-winning radio host, author, and speaker who has earned several prestigious honors for her scholarly and activist work—serves as its founding director.

The Karson Institute officially launched in October 2020, a time when, Whitehead says, “the nation was ready

to have that conversation about racial justice.” The country was reeling from both the COVID-19 pandemic and the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and others, leading to a summer of impassioned Black Lives Matter-related protests.

“I started thinking about what I could do differently,” remembers Whitehead. Since receiving her master’s degree in International Peace Studies from the University of Notre Dame, she’d long had a desire to explore using peace and conflict resolution to talk about inequality. The idea for the Karson Institute was born.

“When Kaye approached the Loyola administration with her vision for the Karson Institute, we were immediately interested in making it happen,” said **Stephen Fowl, Ph.D.**, dean of Loyola College of Arts and Sciences. “From my perspective, it was one of those relatively rare occasions when a faculty member’s dreams and the University’s impulses aligned in the right ways at the right time. It was really just up to us to recognize that and act.”

Founding the institute at a primarily white institution was a conscious decision, Whitehead says. “The issues we’re talking about don’t just impact people of color. They impact everyone and should move all of us to act,” says Whitehead, a professor and scholar who has taught at Loyola since 2009. “If all of this information and research is only available in environments that predominantly serve communities of color, then things will never change.”

Inspired by her father’s work, Whitehead firmly believes that real change doesn’t just come from the leaders of the movements. “Sure, it would be great if I have the next Dr. King or Dr. Dorothy I. Height sitting in my class,” says Whitehead. “But I’d be happier for the Karson Institute to be known for empowering those nameless, faceless foot soldiers who take the conversations and work back to their churches, their synagogues, their communities. Because that is how society changes—from individuals doing the hard work every day and not just by the ‘leaders.’”

**Rodney Parker, M.S. ’11, Ph.D. ’17**, Loyola’s chief equity and inclusion officer, believes the Karson Institute is a natural fit for a university like Loyola.

“It is birthed out of our Jesuit, Catholic identity, as well as the mission of the institution. And it just makes sense in the city of Baltimore,” Parker explains. “Loyola’s long history in Baltimore around social justice and the ways in which we have engaged Baltimore City—and the ways in which we need to re-engage the city—are critically important. Having the Karson Institute situated here helps us to do that.”

### More than Racial Justice

The institute currently has three active centers, each with a different approach. It has always been important to Whitehead to focus on more than racial justice.

“We also talk about economic injustice, environmental injustice, and gender injustice—and how all of that comes together. We are using [American civil rights scholar] Kimberlé Crenshaw’s idea of intersectionality to address these issues,” says Whitehead, also known by many in the Baltimore area as “Dr. Kaye” because of her award-winning daily radio show on the NPR affiliate, WEAA, *Today with Dr. Kaye*. She also hosts the Karson Institute podcast, *Strands of Our Nation*.

Building on Whitehead’s work as a public intellectual is the Center for Public Engagement, which hosts monthly intimate conversations with selected guests, along with podcasts, student-led discussions, a civic responsibility-focused journalism program for local

high school students, and more. Since the center’s founding, participants in these conversations have included Anthony Fauci, former chief medical advisor to the U.S. president, and William Ruto, now president of the Republic of Kenya.

Meanwhile, the Center for Research & Culture consists of fellows, research assistants, and students who study the intersection of race, social justice, peace, education, and advocacy movements. One of the center’s senior fellows, **Bishop Dr. Van Gayton**, is a veteran professor, pastor, and speaker who is researching European colonialism and its roots in racism.

“When George Floyd was killed, that really ignited the flame in me. When I looked up Dr. Kaye and read what the institute was about, I thought it would be great to be a part of a cadre of scholars who are looking for ways of peace yet dealing with the race issue at the same time,” Van Gayton remembers. “My interest in social justice, race relations, and religion just fit the very vision and purpose of the Karson Institute.”

Finally, the Center for Teaching and Learning helps K-12 educators and administrators across the United States prepare for diverse student populations and create professional development materials and resources. Whitehead calls this “a natural extension” of her professional journey, which includes time as a social studies teacher in Baltimore City Public Schools.

**Courtney Carroll, ’21**, has seen how the three centers allow the institute to reach diverse populations within the Loyola and Baltimore communities. While working as Whitehead’s research assistant, she saw how students at City Neighbors High School, a Baltimore City public charter school, attended the 2021 Peace Symposium and were able to connect with Loyola students and experience a day on a Baltimore college campus.

“The students of Loyola will benefit from the Karson Institute for years to come. Each year we will have more immersive activities, from speeches to celebrations, along with tough conversations about our Loyola community,” says Carroll, who now serves as operations manager for the National Women’s Studies Association.

*“It’s a hub where Loyola can really become known for our work around peace, race, and social justice.”*

Rodney Parker, M.S. ’11, Ph.D. ’17, Loyola’s chief equity and inclusion officer



The Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice celebrated its one-year anniversary with a series of events, including a tree planting ceremony near the Fernandez Center. Pictured from left: President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., and Kaye Whitehead, Ph.D.

### Dreaming Big

Reflecting on the last two years, Whitehead believes the institute has begun to make its mark. She cites moments of “incredible joy” she’s found from the work—like having her father on Zoom as she launched the institute in his name and when an old acquaintance shared that her son was planning to attend Loyola due to Whitehead’s work.

Whitehead is also conscious that the Karson Institute is tied to her own reputation and connections in Baltimore and beyond—and she is working to ensure that the institute will be sustainable, evolving with the pressing issues of the times. “If I retire in 10 years and Karson stops, then my work has not been done correctly,” she says.

Parker too has big dreams for the Karson Institute, envisioning it as a premier institute where scholars interested in diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice seek to further their studies. “It’s a hub where Loyola can really become known for our work around peace, race, and social justice, and where students can do internships and gain experience with real-life situations and connections.”

Personally, Parker cannot imagine doing his work without the Karson Institute. “It really does help us

synergistically engage both on campus and in the city of Baltimore, and to bring that learning back into the classroom,” he explains.

Whitehead sees the Karson Institute and its scholars as children she’s sending into the future. “I think about a quote from the late congressman Elijah Cummings: ‘Our children are the living messengers we send to a future we will never see.’ So, if in 100 years, the Karson Institute is standing strong as a lighthouse—as a place that has adjusted with how society is moving and is continuing to ask and answer the hard questions—even though I’ll never see it, that’s what success looks like for me. I get excited to think that someday, Baltimore City students will look at the Karson Institute at Loyola and see it as a place where they can study, where they can grow, and where they can find and claim their voice.”

[LOYOLA.EDU/KARSON](https://LOYOLA.EDU/KARSON)

Learn more about the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice.



Kaye Whitehead, Ph.D., and students celebrate the second anniversary of the Karson Institute for Race, Peace & Social Justice on campus.



David Rivers, Ph.D., director of Forensic Studies, graduate director of Forensic Pattern Analysis, and professor of biology, leads an instructional forensics lab.

PHOTO BY LOUIS UMERLIK '96

# CRACKING CASES, SEEKING TRUTH, SERVING JUSTICE

BEHIND THE SCENES  
OF LOYOLA'S  
FORENSICS PROGRAM

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN



**Jack Gregorian, '23**, has always been interested in insects. On his family's annual summer trip to their cottage in Lake Winola, Pennsylvania, he would run down to the water's edge to examine whatever bugs he could find before his family had even unpacked the car.

*"With forensic entomology, you can garner evidence from insects that you can't from other sources—and especially from flies."*

David Rivers, Ph.D., director of Forensic Studies, graduate director of Forensic Pattern Analysis, and professor of biology



As a first-year student at Loyola many years later, the Newton, Massachusetts, resident found his way to forensics. And he discovered he could combine insects and forensics in one fulfilling career in a forensic entomology class with **David Rivers, Ph.D.**, director of Forensic Studies, graduate director of Forensic Pattern Analysis, and professor of biology.



Loyola offers both an undergraduate major and minor in Forensic Studies and a Master of Science in Forensic Pattern Analysis that prepare students to enter the in-demand—and quickly growing—field of forensic science. In fact, Loyola’s undergraduate and graduate forensics programs were among the first of their kind in the country—and the first in the State of Maryland.

Loyola’s forensics programs, which apply knowledge, techniques, and technology to the investigation of crime and the courtroom, are among the most popular academic programs on campus.

“Our Jesuit, liberal arts university is at its best when we are able to create and develop academic programs that are both of interest to students and beneficial to a growing field that really serves society,” says Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D., NCC, interim provost and vice president for academic affairs. “I love seeing the faculty and student excitement around Forensic Studies, which offers so much as an interdisciplinary program that cultivates intellectual curiosity, inspires cutting-edge research, and applies scholarship to justice. Our Loyola community has been pleased and proud to watch the program grow.”

### The Future of Forensics

Rivers’ passion and ability to connect with alumni and partner experts have enabled Loyola to grow its forensics programs quickly and strategically during a time when the forensics field continues to expand. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that the employment of forensic science technicians will grow by 11% over the next decade, much faster than other professions.

What’s more, Loyola students are poised for competitive careers in one of the top regions in the country for forensic work. In fact, the Baltimore-Washington, D.C., metro area is among the fastest-growing hubs for fields such as biotechnology and biohealth, forensic psychology and counseling, criminal investigation and justice, and counterterrorism.

### Catching the Forensics Bug

But before a forensics program could be established at Loyola, Rivers had to discover the field of forensic entomology for himself.

It was through an entomology lab taught by his undergraduate animal zoology professor that he ended up discovering his own lifelong passion for insects. Then during his senior year, he heard a presentation on the use of insects in crime scene analysis, which he describes as another aha moment. He went on to earn his Ph.D. in entomology from the Ohio State University.

“Loyola has been that place to allow me to combine teaching and research,” says Rivers, who joined the faculty here three decades ago. “I have been putting Loyola’s philosophy of lifelong learning into action as I pursue my path of forensic entomology.”

With forensic entomology, Rivers explains, you can garner evidence from insects that you can’t from other sources—and especially from flies. “Bodies decompose quickly, so after more than 72 hours from time of death, medical examiners’ techniques on the freshly dead decrease, and you need to depend on something else.” Like insects.

What started out as pure fascination for Rivers has become a calling to help bring closure and healing for bereaved families looking for answers.

Rivers has since co-authored two textbooks as he continues to pioneer research on a wide range of insect-related topics, including the potential impact of climate change on insect seasonality in relation to hibernation and corpse analysis, and the consideration that flies could possibly transfer DNA into a crime scene from several city blocks—or even miles—away.

### The Growth of Forensics at Loyola

Rivers has gone on to create and develop the forensics programs at Loyola, beginning with a forensic entomology class, then adding a minor in 2010. After Forensic Studies became one of the hottest minors on campus, Rivers was asked to start a major. He subsequently helped the University also launch the M.S. in Forensic Pattern Analysis.



“I have been putting Loyola’s philosophy of lifelong learning into action as I pursue my path of forensic entomology.”

David Rivers, Ph.D., director of Forensic Studies, graduate director of Forensic Pattern Analysis, and professor of biology

PHOTO BY NICK ALEXOPOULOS, '03, MBA '16



The undergraduate major is interdisciplinary in nature, covering three broad areas of student interest in evidence, social sciences, and justice by incorporating 17 academic disciplines—the most of any program in the country.

“What gives me a lot of pride is the breadth of Loyola’s Forensic Studies program,” Rivers says. “Our students can tackle lots of problems. They have the background to have all points of view in a particular case and can pick different career pathways. Forensic Studies at Loyola is 100% aligned with the end goal of Jesuit education: to seek the truth.”

The approach is resonating with students, as the major has grown exponentially within five years, from 13 students to more than 130.

### A Versatile Degree

Valerie Greisman, '20, a Forensic Studies and biology/psychology double major, conducted research in Rivers’ lab and co-authored three research publications as a student. Since receiving a graduate degree in social work with a criminal justice specialization, she is serving as a social worker at Hearts & Homes for Youth, working with females in foster care who are often involved in the juvenile or adult criminal justice system.

“Because my career goals are focused on working with individuals who are incarcerated, preparing for release, and welcoming them back into the community, my undergraduate and graduate education in forensics have provided me with an understanding of this population and the systems I work in,” Greisman says.

Forensics students work on bloodstain pattern analysis by creating their own bloodstains.

PHOTO BY LOUIS UMERLIK '96



## Alumni Help Shape Forensics at Loyola

The forensics program at Loyola was formed and continues to develop with the guidance of many experts, including from alumni who have been successful in roles connected to the field. These alumni have contributed by serving as members of Loyola's Forensic Studies Advisory Board, mentoring students, or providing insight for the program and course development.



LARRY CANNER

Growing up, **Becky Feldman, '98**, was always interested in psychology, but it was at Loyola where she discovered forensic

psychology. She was inspired by a psychologist guest speaker who got a law degree first—a step she would go on to choose for herself.

Feldman's career has focused on prison reform and getting people out of prison who can safely return to the community. She has personally secured the release of 75 people from prison who after 20-50 years were ready to go back into society. "That's my legacy."

Life has come full circle for Feldman as Rivers sought out her perspective of a psychology major with a nontraditional career path. "I'm happy to talk with students. Loyola was a transformative experience for me—it put me on my path," Feldman says.



**Matthew Gabriel, '95**, experienced some pivotal TV moments in college—notably watching the crime show *Homicide* and

the O.J. Simpson vehicle chase—that first piqued his interest in forensics.

Gabriel, who earned his degree in biology, went on to get his master's in forensic science, and now he is a senior leader for Thermo Fisher Scientific, one of the leading producers of equipment for forensic DNA analysis.

He has testified as an expert in DNA analysis more than 40 times in criminal courts and holds one case particularly close, which resulted in the arrest and conviction of the 1976 cold case homicide of Jenny Read. "It was rewarding and emotional to see my daily work bring closure to this family's tragic loss."

Gabriel remembers what it was like figuring out his way forward as the profession of forensics was just beginning. "Now that forensics 'has arrived,' I can share my career path and experiences for those students asking themselves similar questions."



**David Black, Ph.D., '74**, graduated with a degree in biology after serving in Vietnam. His time at Loyola helped lay the

foundation for his career path by teaching him to ask why. "Follow facts, not opinions," he says. "The scientific method is essential to answer scientific questions. Science cannot be rushed."

Black went on to earn a doctorate in forensic toxicology and joined the Vanderbilt University faculty. He founded Aegis Sciences Corporation—an internationally known forensic company, where he served as chairman and CEO until 2016. He has advised sports organizations and Fortune 500 companies on substance abuse prevention and testing, and he has testified as an expert witness in more than 40 states and on five continents.



**Maura DeJoseph, '98**, who earned her degree in biology, performed autopsies as part of a pathology residency after

medical school. "I realized that I could use every ounce of my medical education to diagnose, through an autopsy, the disease or injury that caused someone's death."

She has worked her way up in medical examiner offices. For the past decade, she has served as the deputy chief medical examiner in Connecticut.

DeJoseph has certainly not forgotten her *alma mater*. "The embedded core elements at Loyola of liberal arts, academic rigor in the sciences, and service to community made me well-rounded and well-prepared for hard work and perseverance."

## "Forensic Studies at Loyola is 100% aligned with the end goal of Jesuit education: to seek the truth."

David Rivers, Ph.D., director of Forensic Studies, graduate director of Forensic Pattern Analysis, and professor of biology

D.N.Sc., a world-renowned forensic nurse and professor at Boston College. In the 1970s, Burgess' research with rape victims connected her to the FBI; she later became involved in profiling for homicides. She has since worked nearly every high-profile serial killer case in the United States, as well as pursued Ted Kaczynski, the Unabomber. The Netflix series *Mindhunter's* main character, Wendy Carr, was based on Burgess.

"This is a grandmother who loves her grandson. To be mentored by one of the world's top authorities at such an early age and the bond they share are incredible," says Rivers. "The subject matter—forensic science and death investigation—doesn't matter. It drew them closer."

Gregorian has since thrived in Loyola's forensics program, with Burgess' and Rivers' support. He is completing two forensics internships as he prepares for graduation in May. He plans to continue gathering more experience in the field as a forensic analyst before pursuing graduate school.

What's more, he has connected Loyola faculty with Burgess' projects. Thanks to Gregorian's introductions, Rivers, DellaRocco, and **Jen Lowry, Ph.D.**, associate department chair and associate professor of psychology, have joined Burgess and Gregorian in *Super Sleuths*. This collection of forensic practitioners and law enforcement help solve cold cases—sometimes including high-profile ones like with Adnan Syed, featured in the podcast, *Serial*. Rivers provided the lab project for Burgess' summer program, which Gregorian participated in—and the Loyola/Boston College collaborations continue.

The respect, Burgess says, is mutual. "I never knew how important insects would be to forensics. Dr. Rivers has taught us so much. He's a marvelous, inspiring teacher. Not many schools teach entomology and forensics. Loyola stands out by offering those classes." 🐞

[LOYOLA.EDU/FORENSIC-STUDIES](https://LOYOLA.EDU/FORENSIC-STUDIES)

Learn more about Forensic Studies.



PHOTO BY LOUIS UMERLIK '98

**"Dr. Rivers has taught us so much. He's a marvelous, inspiring teacher. Not many schools teach entomology and forensics. Loyola stands out by offering those classes."**

Ann Wolbert Burgess, D.N.Sc., a world-renowned forensic nurse and professor at Boston College

**Cierra Thurmond, '20**, found her place in a critical role in the Baltimore Police Department. At a forensics class field trip viewing autopsies at the office of the chief medical examiner, she met a police detective sergeant who offered her an internship fingerprinting unidentified homicide victims. Today she works as a detective in a specialized drug unit.

Loyola's forensics program has prepared Thurmond to observe and analyze evidence in crime scenes. In a larger sense, she says "Loyola's forensics program led me to where I am."

### Meeting a Need

Most recently, the master's program was launched at Loyola after feedback from Rivers' advisory board made it clear there was a strong need in the workforce for training in forensic pattern evidence analysis.

"The field was desperately in need of this program," says **Rana DellaRocco, MSFS, ABC-MB**, chief of science and evidence at the Baltimore Police Department and a Loyola affiliate professor who serves on the advisory board. "Pattern analysis is not something that new hires typically have any experience or knowledge of. This gives students a greater likelihood of success and gives labs the capability to hire and train examiners in pattern analysis in much shorter timeframes."

### A Family Bond in Forensics

At Loyola, Gregorian is matching his passion with a career path—with a nod to his grandmother, who first witnessed his love of bugs on those summer lake trips and has since become "a huge inspiration."

That's because Gregorian's grandmother is Ann Wolbert Burgess,

**SHARE YOUR MEMORIES**

Do you have a favorite memory of Loyola's Alumni Memorial Chapel? Share it at [magazine@loyola.edu](mailto:magazine@loyola.edu).

**LOYOLA.EDU/CHAPEL-STAINED-GLASS**

Learn more about the stained-glass windows in Alumni Memorial Chapel.



CONSTRUCTION PHOTO DATED CIRCA 1950 / GIFT OF JOHN MCGRAN / COURTESY LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY



**VINTAGE**

## 1950 CREATION OF ALUMNI MEMORIAL CHAPEL

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

When then-president of Loyola, the **Rev. Edward Bunn, S.J.**, announced plans to build a new chapel in February 1945, many Loyola students were in the trenches fighting in World War II. Practically, Loyola needed a larger chapel for its growing student body—and, just as important, a way to heal from the war. Ultimately, 1,200 Loyola students and alumni served in combat, including 30 who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The chapel came to life after five years of fundraising and two years of construction. The project was overseen by three Loyola presidents, with the **Rev. Francis Talbot, S.J.**, and the **Rev. Thomas Murray, S.J.**, serving after Fr. Bunn.

As time passed and leadership changed, the sentiment behind building the new chapel shifted. The chapel was completed in 1951 and dedicated in 1952—the 100th anniversary of the University's founding. The church was called Alumni Memorial Chapel, but it was dedicated as a Marian shrine to the Blessed Mother, specifically Our Lady of Evergreen.

Architects Gaudreau and Gaudreau designed the chapel to resemble a Gothic cathedral and the structure was built by noted contractor John McShain from Philadelphia. The stained-glass windows were designed and created by D'Ascenzo Studios, which also produced windows for the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., as well as residences, churches, and businesses throughout the country.

"Up until the present time, including the Jefferson Memorial, the Loyola chapel is the most beautiful building we have ever built," McShain said at its completion.

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SCOTT SUCHMAN

## ALUMNI PROFILE

# SHIRLEY ONE FANTASTIC CHEF

CORPORATE EXECUTIVE CHEF **ZURI COLES, '99**, FUSES CULINARY CREATIVITY WITH SOUTHERN COMFORT AT MISS SHIRLEY'S CAFE

BY BRIANNA YACOVELLI, '20, M.A. '22

**J**ust a few blocks from Loyola's Evergreen campus, bright orange umbrellas shade a packed sidewalk where people are peppering omelets, drizzling maple syrup on short stacks, and sipping locally roasted coffee at Miss Shirley's Cafe.

The nationally acclaimed breakfast, brunch, and lunch spot on West Cold Spring Lane is a favorite among locals, visitors, tourists—and members of the Loyola community.

You may not be aware that behind the acclaimed creative flavor is one of Loyola's own, Corporate Executive Chef **Zuri vonTiesenhausen-Hush Coles, '99**.

A chef at heart, Coles grew up surrounded by people who loved to cook and spend time in the kitchen. She shared that love as a student at Loyola, where she majored in English. She remembers creating meals from the groceries her roommates would bring home for her to cook with—and extending a dinner invitation to hungry neighbors in her residence hall.

After she graduated from Loyola, Coles enrolled in culinary school at Johnson and Wales University in Rhode Island. She earned her Associate of Science in Culinary Arts and returned to Maryland to be closer to her now-husband, **Eric Coles, '99**, whom she met as a first-year student at Loyola.

She joined the team at Miss Shirley's Café three years after it opened its flagship location in Roland Park in 2005.

### More than a Chef's Hat

During her 15 years at Miss Shirley's, Coles' role has expanded tenfold.

Coles oversees Miss Shirley's special events and has led community outreach initiatives, including preparing meals for

first responders and vulnerable populations in Baltimore City during COVID-19.

As corporate executive chef, she concepts menu items and tests new recipes, sources seasonal ingredients, and has expanded the restaurant's offerings. She trains chefs at all four Miss Shirley's locations, ensuring dishes come to life with quality and consistency.

"I love cooking and making people happy," she explains. "I enjoy the creativity and infinite possibilities cooking allows, as well as exploring new cultures and trends."

Miss Shirley's unique, decadent takes on Southern comfort food, often with a nod to Maryland favorites (think: crab), include Coconut Cream Stuffed French Toast, the Gravy Train Southern Skillet, and Chicken Cheddar 'n Green Onion Waffles.

"We like to reinvent dishes that are already on our menu—often with a seasonal flare."

### Making Culinary Memories

The breakfasts her father made when Coles was a child planted a seed that grew into a love of cooking—a love she's passing on to her own three children.

"Breakfast is their favorite meal—and mine—because there are always so many options, whether sweet or savory. You can make anything," she says.

"My kids love coming into Miss Shirley's," she adds. "They have made it their second home."

Coles hopes all her guests feel just as welcome and feels a sense of Loyola nostalgia and Greyhound pride as students, faculty, athletic teams, and families visiting the Evergreen campus stop in for a meal at Miss Shirley's.

"I love making dishes that people want to eat again and again—and even recreate for themselves." **1**

## GIVING NEWS

# Making Waves for Generations to Come

BY RITA BUETTNER



Donald and Lora Nelle Cohill

It was World War II, and Lora Nelle Dooley and **Donald E. Cohill, '50**, were both stationed in Norfolk, Virginia, when they met. She was a nurse in the Navy, and he was a pharmacist's mate.

When the war ended, they married and moved to Baltimore. Don used the G.I. Bill to enroll as a student at Loyola, where he majored in chemistry. He and Lora Nelle went on to have six children.

Their sons, **Michael** and **Edward**, both graduated from Loyola, in 1972 and 1974 respectively. Then Michael's two daughters, **Maureen Cohill Hussey, '97**, and **Megan M. Cohill, '98**, also chose Loyola for their college educations.

With three generations connected to the University, the family's love for Loyola runs deep.

"My father was very proud of Loyola and very proud of his degree from Loyola," said Michael Cohill, who earned his B.S. in Biology and married his wife in Alumni Memorial Chapel.

The Cohills built a summer home in Ocean Pines, Maryland. When Don retired from his career with Merck, he and his wife moved there, from Columbus, Ohio, permanently.

Upon Don's death in 2000, Lora Nelle and the family created the Donald E. Cohill Commuter Scholarship fund. Subsequently, Lora Nelle established a trust bequeathing the Ocean Pines home to Loyola but permitting the children to continue to use the house.

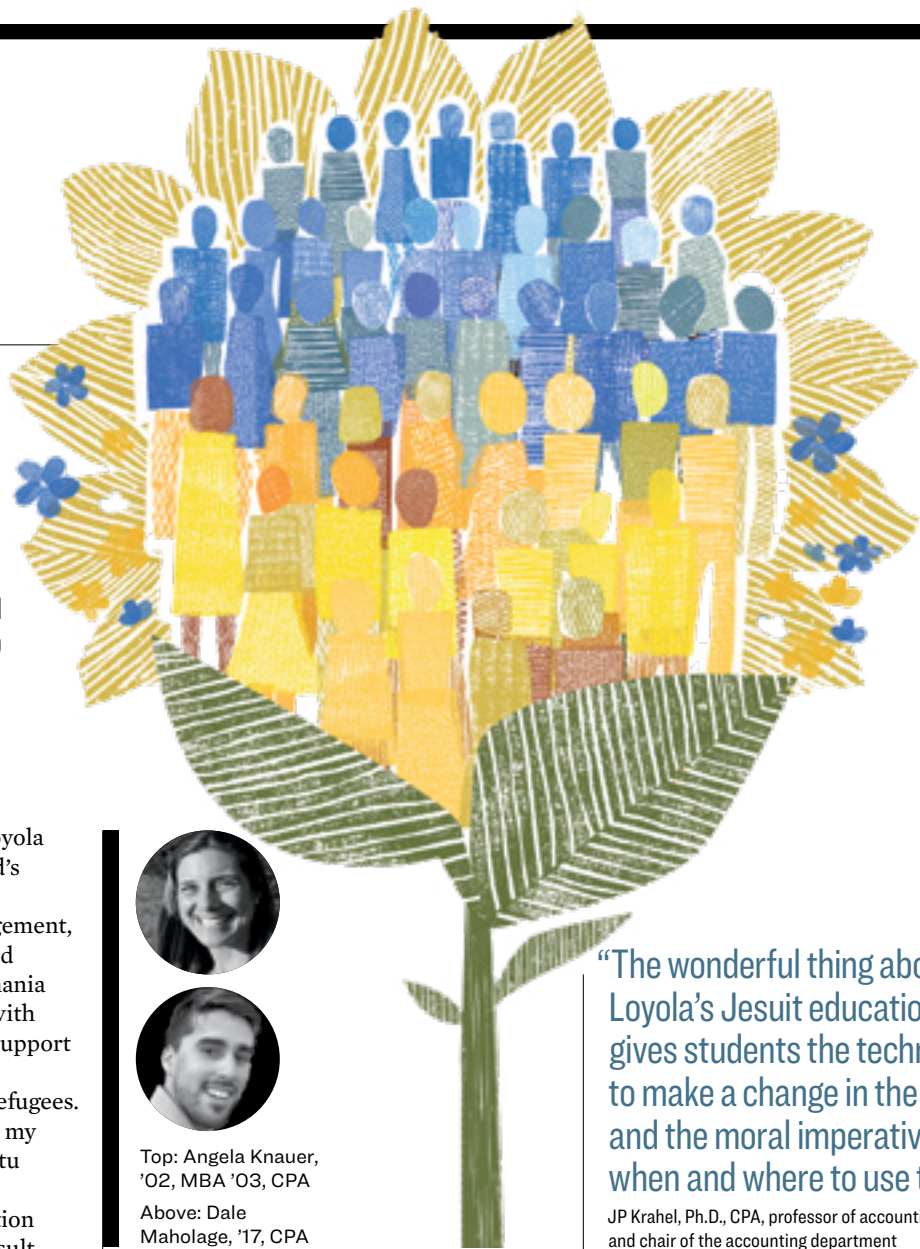
After several years of more wonderful memories, their children decided to accelerate the sale and add the proceeds—about \$300,000—to the scholarship fund as a gift from the whole family.

ALUMNI PROFILE

# UKRAINIAN REFUGEE RELIEF

TWO SELLINGER ALUMNI AIM TO SERVE THE GLOBAL GOOD

BY YENNECA KETZIS AND JESSICA GOLDSTEIN



**T**wo graduates of Loyola University Maryland's Sellinger School of Business and Management, **Angela Knauer, '02, MBA '03, CPA**, and **Dale Maholage, '17, CPA**, visited Romania last May through an opportunity with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to support nonprofit organizations providing humanitarian relief to Ukrainian refugees.

"I never would have anticipated my accounting degree taking me to Satu Mare, Romania, at 27 years old," Maholage said. "My Loyola education gave me the technical skills to consult with partners on their financial control environment—and the soft skills to be able to land in a foreign country under extreme circumstances with the confidence to hit the ground running."

Knauer and Maholage applied their accounting systems and financial controls acumen to support the nonprofit CRS, which focuses on assisting the vulnerable and materially poor overseas, in increasing its emergency operations in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Neither travels for work typically nor speaks the native languages of Romania or Ukraine. In fact, they had only three days to prepare for the two-week trip.

Upon arrival in Romania, they assisted CRS nonprofit partners and laid the groundwork for more permanent staff to follow. Their work supported relief efforts including providing medium- to long-term shelter, transportation, food and hygiene products, and counseling services to refugees.



Top: Angela Knauer, '02, MBA '03, CPA  
Above: Dale Maholage, '17, CPA

"The wonderful thing about Loyola's Jesuit education is that it gives students the technical skills to make a change in the world and the moral imperative to know when and where to use them," said **JP Krahel, Ph.D., CPA**, associate professor of accounting and chair of the accounting department. "What Dale and Angela have done is use accounting, which is often seen as amoral, to make a positive difference in a distressed part of the world."

Maholage graduated from Loyola with a degree in accounting and information systems. While on campus, he was active in the Sellinger School of Business, served as a resident assistant, and competed as a Greyhounds swimmer.

At the time of the trip, Maholage was a senior accountant of financial reporting and analysis with CRS. He has since switched roles to senior financial analyst for Anne Arundel Dermatology. He began his accounting career with

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EY in financial accounting advisory services and technology risk advisory.

Maholage reported to Knauer, who has been with CRS for 12 years. She currently serves as CRS' director of financial reporting and analysis. Prior to joining CRS, she worked in accounting and financial reporting for EY, Black & Decker, Saks Fifth Avenue, and Alpha Natural Resources.

"Participating in Loyola's study abroad program as an undergraduate and having the opportunity to live, study, and volunteer in Thailand helped me develop a global perspective," says Knauer, who earned an accounting degree from Loyola before returning for an MBA. She has also completed a leadership executive education program with University of Notre Dame, Mendoza College of Business. "My experience in Thailand set me on a career path to work for mission-driven organizations." 📍

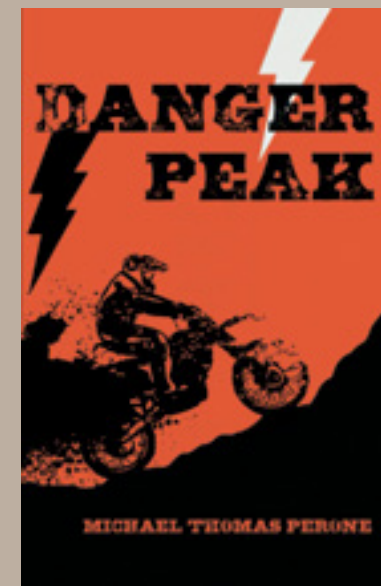
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# Family Bound by Hounds

## DANGER PEAK

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

AUTHOR **MICHAEL THOMAS PERONE'S** DEBUT NOVEL WON NUMEROUS 2022 LITERARY AWARDS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS, INCLUDING A LITERARY TITAN GOLD BOOK AWARD, FALL BOOKFEST AWARD, AND THE FIREBIRD BOOK AWARD; IT WAS NAMED A FINALIST FOR THE AMERICAN FICTION AWARD. A 1999 GRADUATE OF LOYOLA, PERONE EARNED HIS B.A. IN COMMUNICATION AND SERVED AS FEATURES EDITOR FOR *THE GREYHOUND*. TODAY HE WORKS AS A SENIOR EDITOR FOR THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS.



**Can you tell us a little about the main themes of the book—and what you hope readers take away from it?**

There's the obvious metaphor of climbing every mountain, especially since there's a literal mountain in my story. But it's also about dealing with and overcoming grief. I hope my book not only inspires people to chase their dreams but to cherish the people you have in your life while they're here. Just because someone you loved is gone doesn't mean the love you have for that person has to be gone as well.

**How does your Loyola education impact your career as a writer and editor?**

Loyola taught me to be a critical thinker and not to accept everything at face value. That certainly helped when I was a critic the first few years out of college, and it's helped in my writing; I try not to just describe things on the surface but to dig a little deeper.

**What's the greatest compliment someone can give you about your work?**

The fact that they read it. Seriously, so few people read nowadays with the endless streaming options out there that I'm flattered if someone took the time to read my book. I've had a few kids tell me how much they love the book and were able to relate to it, which always surprises me because it takes place decades before they were born. I guess growing up is universal, no matter when you do it. 📍

**How did you become interested in writing young adult fiction?**

Even though I'm in my 40s, I tend to think like someone in junior high—that helps me put myself in the mindset of my characters.

**What inspired *Danger Peak*?**

I was inspired by three major sources: the old-school, 8-bit Nintendo game Excitebike; my many misadventures riding my bike around town with my two best friends growing up on Long Island; and, unfortunately, the death of my brother when I was 8. Writing this book was both a love letter to my childhood and a way to reconcile the tragedy at the center of it. It was cathartic, to say the least.

**OTHER LOYOLA AUTHORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED**

*How Beautiful the World Could Be: Christian Reflections on the Everyday*, Author: **Frederick Bauerschmidt, Ph.D.**, professor of theology

*Oracles of the Cosmos: Between Pantheism and Secularism*, Author: **Paul Richard Blum, Ph.D.**, professor emeritus of philosophy

*Agnostic Democracy and Political Practice: Ways of Being Adversarial*, Author: **Fuat Gürsözlü, Ph.D.**, associate professor of philosophy

*Antiracist Teacher Education: Counternarratives and Storytelling (Volume 2)*, Co-author: **Afra Hersi, Ph.D.**, professor of literacy teacher education

*The Johns Hopkins Guide to Psychological First Aid*, Co-author: **Jeffrey Lating, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology

*Origin Story: Power of the Inciting Incident*, Author: **Carrie Klewin Lawrence, '96**

*The Leader of the Parade: An Adlerian Educational Tool for Caregivers and Teachers*, Author: **Mary McCluskey, '94, DSW, LCSW**

*Assessing Writing to Support Learning: Turning Accountability Inside Out*, Co-author: **Peggy O'Neill, Ph.D.**, professor of writing

*Kismet*, Author: **Dipa Sarkar-Dey, Ph.D.**, associate professor emerita of mathematics

*This is the Nature of All of Us*, Author: **Chemine Sharpe, '16** (under a pseudonym)

*Moral Injury After Abortion: Exploring the Psychospiritual Impact on Catholic Women*, Co-author: **Jill Snodgrass, Ph.D.**, professor of theology

*The Formation of Latin American Nations: From Late Antiquity to Early Modernity*, Author: **Thomas Ward, Ph.D.**, professor of Spanish and Latin American and Latino Studies

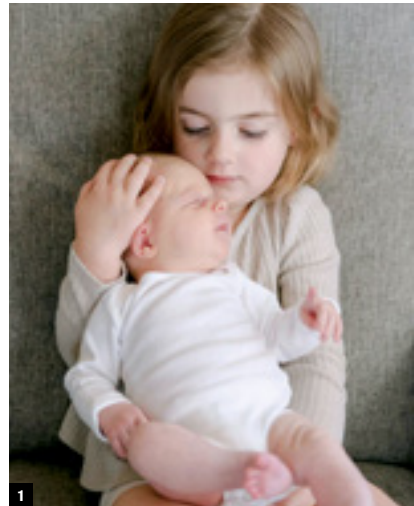
 **LOYOLA.EDU/ GREYHOUND-AUTHORS**  
Find a list of recent titles by Greyhound authors.



# Family Class Notes

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

Please send your class notes and photos to [alumni@loyola.edu](mailto:alumni@loyola.edu).



### 1965

**The Honorable Louis Becker** received the Brigadier General Phillip Sherman Award from the Maryland State Bar Association for leadership and service.

### 1977

**Harold Bailey, Jr.**, was appointed Commanding Officer of the Maryland Defense Force 10th Medical Regiment.

**Paul A. Tiburzi** received the Distinguished Graduate Award for 2023 from the University of Maryland's Francis King Carey School of Law for professional excellence and service to the community.

### 1990

**Charley Toomey**, Loyola men's head lacrosse coach, was inducted into Boys' Latin School of Maryland's Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments as a student-athlete (pictured with fellow Boys' Latin alumnus and men's head soccer coach **Steve Nichols, '92**, left.)

### 1992

**Kurt Binder** will take over as chief financial officer at Arlo Technologies Inc., a leading smart home security brand.

### 1996

**Maira Donovan** will lead and support client engagements for Chenery Compliance Group, a provider of chief compliance officer solutions to wealth managers, private funds, and registered funds.

### 1997

**Robert Loia (M.Ed.)** has been named principal of the Basilica School of Saint Mary in Virginia for the 2022-23 school year.

### 2000

**Kathryn "Katie" DiMartino** has been added to Delaware's Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP senior executive team. DiMartino will be its chief legal talent and recruiting officer.

### 2001

**Teresa Woodard**, vice president of trading analytics at T. Rowe Price, received the company's Women in Finance Award.

### 2005

**Sally and Tom Kowalczyk** welcomed their second daughter, Clara Jean, on Oct. 19, 2022.

### 2006

**John and Amanda Moulton Guzowski, '07**, welcomed their third child, James Parker, born on Dec. 31, 2022.

### 2009

**Sasha Buerano** and **Joe Dube** were married on Oct. 29, 2022, at St. Catherine Parish in Spring Lake, New Jersey.

**Cen Liu** has been selected as one of the White House Presidential Innovation Fellows.

### 2011

**Andrew Cevasco** and **Monique Bujold** welcomed their second daughter, Lilliana "Lilly" Andrea, born on Jan. 2, 2023.

### 2012

**Miguel Adams (M.A.)** published a new magazine, *The Remarkable God*, in October 2022.

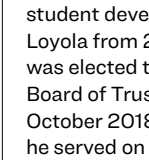
### 2019

**Hannah Flury** and **Chris Daus** were married on Oct. 22, 2022, in Alumni Memorial Chapel.

# Family In Memoriam



**The Rev. Ronald J. Amiot, S.J.**, a member of Loyola's Board of Trustees and former rector of Loyola's Jesuit community, died Sept. 3, 2022, at age 73. Fr. Amiot was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, and entered the Novitiate at Shadowbrook in Lenox, Massachusetts, in 1967. He was ordained in June 1978 at the College of the Holy Cross, where he would also pronounce his final vows 12 years later. He held a B.A. from St. Louis University, master's degrees in theology/divinity from Boston College and historical/pastoral theology from St. Louis University, and a Ph.D. in Counselor Education/School Counseling and Human Development from the University of Iowa. Fr. Amiot worked in student development for Loyola from 2007-16. He was elected to Loyola's Board of Trustees in October 2018, for which he served on the Board's Advancement and Enrollment Management Committee and, more recently, on the Student Development Committee.



**Molly Fredette**, director of the Study at Loyola University Maryland, died Feb. 3, 2023. Fredette, who was 46, will be remembered as a skilled teacher, enthusiastic mentor, and champion for ensuring exceptional student support. Since arriving at Loyola in August 2008, Fredette has overseen the Study, which offers peer and professional tutoring, academic skills coaching services, and academic support services for



**Mark Peyrot, Ph.D.**, longtime professor of sociology, died Oct. 22, 2022, at age 73. Peyrot joined the faculty

in 1985 and taught at Loyola until his retirement in 2018; he served as chair of the sociology department for 10 years. Peyrot also founded and was director of Loyola's Center for Social and Community Research, which granted research assistantships and apprenticeships to graduate and undergraduate students for several decades under his leadership. He further served as the founding chair of the committee that developed the regulations governing research ethics at Loyola. Peyrot's work in diabetes research and care—focused on the psychosocial aspects of diabetes—spans more than four decades; he authored more than 200 scientific publications on the subject during his career. He is survived by his wife, Heather, and their four children.

undergraduate and graduate students. Fredette, who was bilingual in English and Spanish, provided support to students who were multilingual. She also served as a mentor in Messina, Loyola's living and learning program for first-year students. Fredette is survived by her family, including her husband, Chris Esposito.

Fanny Meagher, '50, May 2022

Tom Volatile, '53, August 2022

John Nayden, '55, September 2022

Jim Bongardt, '59, September 2022

George Hebner, '59, June 2022

Richard Kane, '59, October 2022

Tony Serio, '59, August 2022

Manuel Haendler, '60, December 2022

Michael LeCompte, '68, August 2022

Tim McNamara, '68, December 2022

Susan Dishong, '72, September 2022

Robert Barron, '73, August 2022

Paul Hayden, '74, December 2022

Patty Mifsud, '88, April 2022

Stephanie Bomar, '00, June 2022

# 5 TIPS TO START YOUR WELLNESS JOURNEY

SANDRA GALLAGHER-MOHLER, '03,  
MIND BODY PERFORMANCE COACH

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

A mind body performance coach, Sandra Gallagher-Mohler, '03, fuses strength training, nutrition coaching, run training, performance reiki, and mental strength training through her company, 15° Mind Body Performance Coaching, to cultivate custom training plans for athletes to help them feel and perform at their best.

Coach S, who holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from Loyola, shares tips on starting—or restarting—your own wellness journey.

**TIP 1**

### Start Small to Grow Big

Beginners tend to inadvertently set themselves up for failure by starting out too big. Build upon your goals.

**TIP 2**

### Don't Go It Alone

It can be daunting starting your wellness journey alone, so make sure you have someone to encourage you and offer feedback. It could be as simple as going on a daily walk with a friend to keep you committed to your goal.

**TIP 3**

### Listen to Your Body and Mind

Illness, fatigue, and injury will show up if your body thinks you aren't listening to it. Setting aside time for your mind and body to wind down each day will create space for listening—and your body will tell you in gentler ways than an injury what you need.

**TIP 4**

### Balance is Everything

Your plan should not only fit your needs and aspirations; it should be realistic. Give yourself flexibility and acknowledge where the gains are coming from.

**TIP 5**

### Don't Miss Twice

Setbacks happen. Your wellness journey doesn't have to be done or over if life gets in the way. As long as you remain committed to your goal and refine your plans, you can keep going.



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Learn more: [loyola.edu/double-greyhound](https://loyola.edu/double-greyhound)



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#### OUR TIME TO SHINE

The Evergreen campus came alive to celebrate the inauguration of Loyola University Maryland's 25th president, Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., in October—including a fireworks show that brought hundreds of students to the Quad.

This new chapter not only brings excitement for the future, but also a recommitment to Jesuit values and educating students to learn, lead, and serve in our diverse and changing world. Your gift can make the Loyola experience possible for the next generation of students.

