

LOYOLA

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UNIVERSITY
MARYLAND
MAGAZINE

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Loyola's military veterans continue to live out the values of their Jesuit education through dedicated service and leadership

2025

Issue // Spring



WE'VE GOT SPIRIT

GREYHOUNDS
EMBRACE
LOYOLA
TRADITIONS

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Students embrace spring, relaxing under a cherry tree on the Evergreen campus—a designated arboretum with more than 2,200 trees.

GRANT GIBSON

SCENE

EVERGREEN IN BLOOM

BY RITA BUETTNER, M.A. '24

Hundreds of elegant trees offer character and shade to Loyola's 80-acre Evergreen campus, and they're even more noticeable in the spring. Many of them have welcomed generations of students to Loyola, while others are newer additions.

Students relaxing under a cherry tree in the center of the Quad might not be aware that Loyola is actually designated as an arboretum, with more than 2,200 trees and at least 114 varieties. The campus has been accredited by the Morton Register of Arboreta since 2013, recognizing the University's dedication to nurturing and preserving dozens of tree species.

As spring arrives, the trees lend additional beauty to campus, offering a backdrop for student selfies and the Commencement photos seniors take as the semester draws to a close. The buds and blossoms and leafy branches provide food and homes to native species, as the campus is renewed with green after the gray days of winter.

There is no place like Loyola in any season, but the Evergreen campus truly dazzles in the spring.

"Nothing is so beautiful as spring—when weeds, in wheels, shoot long and lovely and lush; Thrush's eggs look little low heavens, and thrush through the echoing timber does so rinse and wring the ear, it strikes like lightning to hear him sing."

Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. (1844-1889)

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

When I became president, Courtney and I were excited to be all in—living on campus, attending numerous events, and connecting more deeply with our Loyola community. We're now in our fourth year and loving it more than ever.

One of our favorite traditions is hosting students for dinners in our dining room at Armiger House. We especially enjoy entertaining small groups of seniors, which we do throughout the academic year. Courtney and I have the best time getting to know them better and hearing about their Loyola experiences.

The students share about the faculty members who've challenged and guided them. They talk about diving into campus life through clubs, organizations, and sports. They describe incredible study abroad experiences. They name those who have supported them most along the way—and they speak with humility and gratitude.

At the end of every evening, after the dishes are cleared and the students have left, Courtney and I sit and marvel at our Greyhounds. Our evolving world certainly has its challenges, but our graduates are ready to take what they have learned and bring about transformational change.

That's thanks to our dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators—as well as all the people who have given so much to make sure they benefit from an exceptional Jesuit, liberal arts education. I hope you know how grateful we are to you and to all those who are invested in positioning Loyola as a preeminent university for student success.

We are excited to share some fantastic stories in this issue of *Loyola*, including a feature speaking with alumni veterans who have served and sacrificed so selflessly. This issue also reflects on some of the traditions that have been established at Loyola over the years. Traditions offer ways for our students to connect more deeply, have some fun, grow in school spirit, and create those college memories to last a lifetime.

As we move toward our 175th anniversary, we can be proud that one of our greatest traditions is educating students who go on to learn, lead, and serve. That will never change.

God bless and go Hounds.

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



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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND MAGAZINE

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Designed by Malia Leary using photos courtesy Loyola/Notre Dame Library and Yamil Hernández, '25.

LEFT:
PHOTO BY EMMA SABINO, '25
President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., and his wife, Courtney, M.S. '93, enjoy hosting students at their home, Armiger House, for dinner throughout the school year.



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NEWS FROM LOYOLA

‘CREATIVITY FROM A FRESH PERSPECTIVE’

BY ANDREW ALDRICH

LOYOLA ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLASS TEAMS UP WITH FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS

“Being younger, you have the freedom to be more creative, so being able to work with these students who are younger and more curious—and hear their perspective—teaches us how to be more open and make mistakes.”

Ava Farrell, '26

On a warm October day, fourth- and fifth-grade students from Furman L. Templeton Preparatory Academy in Baltimore took their seats next to Loyola students in a classroom on the Evergreen campus. The Loyola students told them jokes, asked about their weeks, and shared about college life before getting down to work.

As part of an afterschool program run by Unlimited Potential, a nonprofit that provides students mentoring and skill development, the visiting students joined Loyola’s Creative Mindset class every few weeks throughout the semester. Offered for the first time in the fall of 2024, the class presents creative thinking tools that drive innovation and entrepreneurship but also facilitates something more.

“Loyola students are seeing creativity from a fresh perspective—from the fourth and fifth graders—but they’re also learning through talking with these students and getting to know them, understanding their lives, and witnessing the impact they’re having on their potential,” said **Jon Weinstein**, entrepreneur in residence at Loyola’s Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, assistant teaching professor at the Sellinger School of Business, and Creative Mindset teacher. “They’re making connections

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Unlimited Potential students and Loyola students at the Kelly Family Outdoor Classroom, exploring ideas to sell a beverage as a fundraiser benefiting the afterschool program.



ANDREW ALDRICH

with these young students who they may not ordinarily get to interact with or find common ground with, regardless of age, circumstance, status, geography, or race.”

The class started with exercises to trigger creativity and connection between the older and younger students before shifting to group projects to support Unlimited Potential. The students collaborated in teams focused on a product-driven fundraising campaign, expanding the nonprofit’s programs, and developing a strategy for its future.

“Our fourth and fifth graders are working hand in hand with Loyola students, gaining entrepreneurship and creativity skills,” said

loyola.edu/innovation

Learn more about the Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.



Haneef Hardy, founder of Unlimited Potential. “Throughout this experience, they’re given a chance to apply these skills in real-life settings. Loyola is helping bridge the gap and extend opportunities, teaching our students

leadership, communication, and entrepreneurship, and helping them visualize a future in college.”

During class, one team of students stepped outside and gathered in front of the chalkboard at the Kelly Family Outdoor Classroom. The group explored ideas to sell a beverage as a fundraiser benefiting Unlimited Potential. They sketched drink label designs on the chalkboard, discussed social media marketing, and practiced sales pitches.

“It is wildly evident how helpful it’s been to have these students come in,” said **Ava Farrell, '26**, a junior studying leadership and management consulting, psychology, and innovation and entrepreneurship at Loyola. “Being younger, you have the freedom to be more creative, so being able to work with these students who are younger and more curious—and hear their perspective—teaches us how to be more open and make mistakes.”

The collaboration between the two groups of students represents a central tenet of Loyola’s Jesuit educational mission. Through this type of community-engaged learning experience, the connection between students and community members helps both groups learn from one another and build knowledge together. **📍**

SIMON CENTER FOR INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP RECOGNIZED

Loyola’s Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship has received two recent—and significant—recognitions for its leadership and curriculum.



Wendy Bolger, founding director of the Simon Center, was named

2024 Educator of the Year by Technical.ly Baltimore, a news website that covers innovation and entrepreneurship.

The Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers awarded the Simon Center the Excellence in Entrepreneurship Teaching and Pedagogical Innovation award. The award recognizes the Simon Center-supported Applied Angel Investing class, which provides students with real-world angel investing experience.



LARRY GANNER

Sign produced by Keppel & Kismet, a 2022 Demo Day bronze award recipient and 2024 Loyola Angel Fund investee.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jeeda Hennawi, '27

BY EISA ABU-SBAIH, '25

“When you go into pre-med with a Jesuit liberal arts education, you can expand your horizons so much more. You understand the context of people and patients instead of just the medicine. You are focusing on the person as a whole.”



Jeeda Hennawi, '27, a biology and Spanish double major from Timonium, Maryland, always saw pre-medical studies in her

future. She grew up loving the natural sciences and pretending to be a doctor with her little cousins. It was Loyola’s interdisciplinary curriculum, however, that truly broadened her perspective of possibility.

A class on Spanish for health care professions taught her about disparities within the Latinx community and the greater healthcare system, encouraging her passion for patient and community advocacy.

Hennawi is also heavily involved in community service. As a service coordinator intern for the Center for Community, Service, and Justice, Hennawi connects student volunteers and service-learners to partners such as the Refugee Youth Project and CASA de Maryland programs. She is also a member of the Pre-Health Society and Student Health Advisory Council.

“There’s a whole different side of Baltimore that I want to keep exploring. In class, we’re learning a lot about real-life situations and concepts. With extracurriculars, you are in the real world gaining lived experience and new perspectives,” she said. “At Loyola, you have so many options, and you have all the tools to be able to use those options.”

THE SCIENCE OF SOURDOUGH

ANDREW SCHOEFFIELD, PH.D., '82, EXPLORES THE INTERSECTION OF BIOLOGY AND BAKING

BY MADISON BORIS, '14



Andrew Schoeffield, Ph.D., '82, is an associate professor of biology at Loyola with a passion for baking bread. His expertise in microbiology gives him a unique perspective on the science behind fermentation and the art of bread-making.

What inspired you to start baking bread, and why do you love it?

I read Michael Pollan's *Omnivore's Dilemma* years ago when it was Loyola's first-year common text. I was intrigued! From there, I read his other books, including *The Botany of Desire*, *Cooked*, and *In Defense of Food*. Those books made me rethink what I considered food and what I want to put into my body.

What is your favorite bread to make?

My favorite bread to bake is the one that puts a smile on the face of someone else. There is magic in making something as basic as a loaf of bread and gifting it to someone. You are gifting your expertise, your time, your care, a little bit of love, and, of course, a delicious loaf of bread.

What is microbiology?

Microbiology is the study of microorganisms. Generally, people think of bacteria when considering what a microorganism is. However, microbiology encompasses the study of fungi, algae, protists, and even viruses, which, by definition, are not "organisms" at all.

Microbiology baking tip: Remember, yeast are microorganisms. Be true to your yeast—give them a home and nourish them—and they will nourish you right back!

Do you see any parallels between the science of bread-making and your work in microbiology?

Bread-making involves a great deal of science, though you don't need to understand the science to make great bread. A bread dough is a living and respiring entity, teeming with life. Understanding how those organisms do their "thing" is certainly helpful, but not an absolute necessity. That said, great bakers demonstrate the same desirable traits of scientists. These include a knack for making careful observations, performing many repetitions, and

having a willingness to adjust their bread "experiments" when the results were not as expected.

How do you encourage STEM students to find interdisciplinary connections like the one between bread and biology?

I am constantly talking with my classes about the connections between everything. My life is a (relatively) open book, and I share the stories of that book with my students. I think that it's easier for students to find interdisciplinary connections in their lives when that thought process is modeled for them. I try to discuss how important it is to care for ourselves, to care for others, and to constantly and consistently search for beauty in the simple things in life. It's important that we pay attention to the data of our lives, remember our own stories, write our own books, and share our books with others.



ANDREW SCHOEFFIELD, PH.D., '82

If you could teach a class combining biology and baking, what would it look like, and what lessons would you hope students take away?

Such a course would link the science of cooking/baking and an understanding of why we do what we do in the kitchen. The textbook would be *The Food Lab* by J. Kenji López-Alt, and the class would feature plenty of hands-on "experiments." I'd like the course to instill a sense of "yes, I can" when it comes to cooking. More importantly, I'd want to instill the value of a well-cooked dish—not just the health benefits, but also the sense of community that comes with a shared meal. 🍞

loyola.edu/go/ask-the-expert

Get the recipe for Cheddar – Cheddar Jalapeno Bread (pictured) courtesy of Andrew Schoeffield, Ph.D., '82.



Notable Thought Leaders

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



"All through the history of the Society of Jesus, a sizeable number of Jesuits would write to the Superior General in Rome, asking to be sent to India. The only reason given was Francis Xavier."

Rev. Charles Borges, S.J., associate professor of history, speaking with *The Economist* about Saint Francis Xavier's influence in India. Fr. Borges was the main celebrant of the English language Mass at the 18th Decennial Exposition of the bodily relics of Saint Francis Xavier in Goa, India.



"Retailers can adjust the prices online as demand changes, as inventory changes, as competitor pricing changes. They can lower the price, they can increase the price, and it helps them maximize their revenue. When you stock products in a brick-and-mortar store, there are overhead costs for staff to stock the shelves and check people out at the cash register."

Marie A. Yeh, Ph.D., associate professor of marketing, explains the cost difference between online and in-store shopping in an interview with WMAR.



"It remains to be seen whether France's military withdrawal will reduce its economic footprint in Côte d'Ivoire, but we know that this has been the case in the Sahel, where Russian economic influence is partly replacing French economic influence."

Joan Ricart-Huguet, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, speaking with BBC News' *World Business Report*.



"For parents, you know your children and their behavior. When you notice the way that they interact with people is changing, then it may be time for a discussion about why that might be and how social media can influence our patience."

Greg Hoplamazian, Ph.D., associate professor of communication and media, speaking with FOX 45 about healthy social media habits.



"Teaching is not just a one-sided, one-way stream of knowledge of faculty sharing information with students and students taking notes. The new space will allow for collaborative group work, active learning, and high-impact practices in teaching and learning."

Bahram Roughani, Ph.D., associate dean of natural and applied sciences, speaking with the *Baltimore Business Journal* about the addition and enhancement of the Donnelly Science Center.

Notable Faces of Loyola

GIA GRIER MCGINNIS, DR.PH.

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, '23

“SERVICE ACTS AS A UNIFIER. IT BREAKS DOWN BOUNDARIES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, GIVES PEOPLE HOPE.”

AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF LOYOLA'S CENTER FOR COMMUNITY, SERVICE, AND JUSTICE (CCSJ) AND THE YORK ROAD INITIATIVE (YRI), Gia Grier McGinnis, Dr.PH., leads accessible and meaningful community engagement opportunities for Loyola students. Born and raised in Baltimore, Grier McGinnis encourages Greyhounds to get involved in Charm City—“a city that you root for.”

DOING Baltimore
“As a Jesuit Catholic university with mission-driven values that support our work, we are called to be good neighbors and work with our community in Baltimore and beyond. Loyola is building the next generation of leaders, and it is our honor to train them to do great things with their communities.”



STUDENT-DRIVEN SERVICE

The CCSJ team mentors student interns who facilitate intentional service opportunities. Whether they're managing a campus thrift store, planning York Road Community Days, or maintaining a community fridge, students are challenged to think critically and creatively. “The students drive the work that we do. I am energized by their energy.”

INSPIRED BY CARE FOR OUR COMMON HOME

With a background in environmental studies and public health, Grier McGinnis believes ecological impact, the health and wellbeing of populations, and community engagement are powerfully intertwined. “One of the Jesuit universal apostolic preferences is Care for our Common Home. The way we care for our Earth directly reflects how we care for our people. As an anchor institution in Baltimore, we must recognize our responsibility to give back to the city we call home.”

BALTIMORE'S BEST (GIA'S VERSION)

Hiking the red trail around Lake Roland (go early), and Gordon's Florist, Atwater's, and Bonjour Crepes at Belvedere Square Market.

DANIEL MCGARRITY

Notable News



Stackable MBA Program Launches

The Sellinger School of Business and Management introduced the Stackable MBA, which allows working professionals to customize their educational experience through a new pathway of certificates. Each certificate program includes four courses, which can be completed as a standalone certificate or integrated into the MBA program. Offered in hybrid and fully online formats, the Stackable MBA is the first and only program of its kind in Baltimore. “This flexible and cost-effective option allows working professionals to develop targeted skills that can accelerate career growth or enhance their current roles,” said **Mary Ann Scully, MBA '79**, dean of Loyola's Sellinger School. “Without needing to commit up front to a full MBA program, students can earn certificates quickly and see an immediate return on investment.”



Where Little Hearts Find Their Beat

Fourteen Loyola seniors created a two-pronged national public health campaign to support children who have pacemakers. The Pediatric Pacemaker Project features an informative website along with a strategic awareness campaign that aims to unite dispersed resources and information for patients, parents, and caregivers, including teachers. The campaign is designed to raise awareness to build community and safety for those involved. It includes a website, direct mail outreach to pediatric cardiologists nationwide, and a social media campaign.

Loyola Professor Earns Academic Prizes

Janine P. Holc, Ph.D., professor of political science, has been awarded three academic prizes for her 2023 book, *The Weavers of Trautenu: Jewish Female Forced Labor in the Holocaust*. Holc received the Rachel Feldhay Brenner Award in Polish Jewish Studies from the Polish Institute of Arts & Sciences;



JANINE P. HOLC, PH.D.

the 2024 Heldt Prize for best book in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian women's and gender studies from the Association for Women in Slavic Studies; and the Sara A. Whaley Prize for best book addressing women and labor from intersectional perspectives from the National Women's Studies Association.

Strong Truths Well Ranked

Loyola's online graduate programs earned several notable rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* in its 2025 list of Best Online Programs. The publication recognized Loyola among the Best Online Master's in Business Programs (non-MBA), Best Online MBA Programs, Best Online Master's in Information Technology Programs, and Best Online Master's in Education Programs. Loyola's online graduate programs in the School of Education climbed 133 spots in the *U.S. News* rankings from last year, while the University's online MBA program through the Sellinger School of Business and Management moved up 91 spots. The fully online Master of Science in Data Science program, offered through Loyola College, the University's school of arts and sciences, debuted on the list.

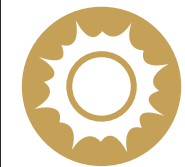
Loyola Student Receives \$50,000 Innovation Award

Charles Engler, '27, a finance major and innovation and entrepreneurship minor, received a Pava LaPere Innovation Award and \$50,000 to support his business startup, Luminova Beauty. The



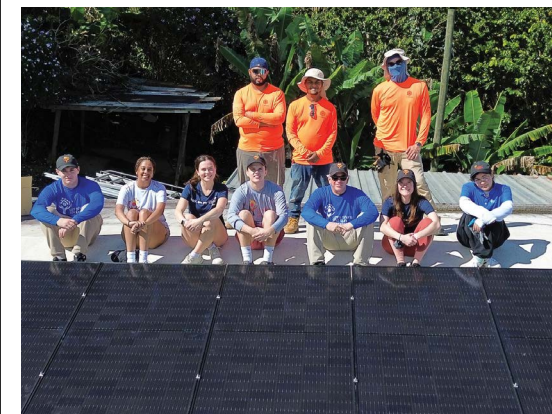
CHARLES ENGLER, '27

startup is the 21-year-old's third since he became interested in business at age 14. “Charles is a serial entrepreneur whose success with Luminova will not be his last,” said **Wendy Bolger**, founding director of Loyola's Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, which nurtures student innovators through education, hands-on experiences, and creative experimentation. “We were thrilled when he decided to join us at Loyola and are lucky to have the chance to support his entrepreneurial development through his minor and the resources of the Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship.”



Ignatian Principles Guide Experiential Learning

Five Loyola students traveled to Puerto Rico over the winter break for a service-learning experience installing solar panels on the mountainside home of a woman with electrical medical devices. The trip, which was entirely student-inspired and student-led, took a Jesuit approach to education by integrating academic concepts with real-world applications and a humanitarian purpose. “The ability to give this woman solar, so she no longer needs to worry about going to the hospital because her oxygen machine does not have power to work, words cannot even describe what it meant,” said **Peter Graham, '25**, who spearheaded the trip.



Loyola students install solar panels on a house in Adjuntas, Puerto Rico.

Notable Cura Personalis

CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

A DOSE OF MENTORING

AS THE FACULTY DIRECTOR OF HEALTH OUTREACH BALTIMORE, MAIJU LEHMIJOKI WETZEL, PH.D., IS A TEACHER AND MENTOR TO PRE-HEALTH STUDENTS

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN PEPOSE, '07

Katherine Martinez, '23, and Autumn Banks, '23, were both drawn to Health Outreach Baltimore (HOB) the moment they learned about it.

The partnership between Loyola University Maryland and Mercy Medical Center—which celebrated its 10th anniversary last fall—pairs pre-health students with Baltimore families in need of social resources. It's led by **Maiju Lehmijoki Wetzel, Ph.D., BSN, R.N.**, Loyola's director of pre-health programs, who has shaped the program and mentored many student participants in HOB over the past decade.

Banks, who graduated with a biopsychology degree, was one of them. She saw HOB as an extension of her high

"HOB pushed me out of my comfort zone. It showed me the importance of a holistic approach, not just looking at a piece of paper. I knew that I loved bedside care from those experiences."

Autumn Banks, '23



KATHERINE MARTINEZ, '23



AUTUMN BANKS, '23



MAIJU LEHMIJOKI WETZEL, PH.D., BSN, R.N.

school hospital internship. "I loved the mission and the opportunity to serve the community I'm from," said the Baltimore native.

For Martinez—who studied biochemistry and Spanish at Loyola—meeting Wetzel during a visit to campus as a prospective student helped solidify her decision to attend Loyola. "I'd never heard of a program like that, where we were in a hospital and working directly with patients," she said.

Through the program, more than 25 student advocates work throughout the academic year, witnessing firsthand the gaps in community resources for underserved communities. "We were on the front lines, connecting clients to essential services," Martinez remembered. "One of my first clients was a single mom with six kids. I'm one of five, and it was the first time I truly realized how lucky I am."

Wetzel believes giving pre-health students this strong understanding of ethics, inequality, and social justice is crucial at the undergraduate level, as most will go on to study medicine or work in other health professions. "It's about making sure students are well-rounded in understanding their duties toward their fellow human beings," she said.

Students participating in HOB not only work with patients but also have weekly reflection sessions. For Banks, these sessions were some of her favorite moments. "We talked about the tangible impact we were making—the patients we helped find groceries or cribs for, or signed up for insurance," she said. "It was really powerful."

Martinez has continued those lessons in medical school at Mayo Clinic's Alix School of Medicine, where she volunteers at shelters and works at a free clinic. "Social determinants of health are so crucial to health care," she reflected. "HOB has given me such a good foundation for this work."

Banks also credits the program with her decision to become a psychiatric nurse practitioner through Yale's



COURTESY OF MAIJU LEHMIJOKI WETZEL, PH.D.

accelerated nursing program. "HOB pushed me out of my comfort zone. It showed me the importance of a holistic approach, not just looking at a piece of paper. I knew that I loved bedside care from those experiences."

It's not surprising that both women cite Wetzel as a mentor. Martinez, in fact, is paying it forward by mentoring current medical school applicants, and she still finds herself texting Wetzel for advice. "Having someone to contact now,

COURTESY OF KATHERINE MARTINEZ, '23, AND AUTUMN BANKS, '23

18 months after graduation, and say, 'Can you help me with this?' is so crucial to my success."

Banks agrees: "Even when I doubted myself, Dr. Wetzel encouraged me and helped me see what I had already accomplished. She's just been an incredible mentor."

A large part of her role as a leader is to get out of students' way, explained Wetzel. "I provide the framework and structure for HOB, but then give the

students ownership over the program," she said. "I try to be a supportive presence in the background, listening and providing guidance when needed, but really letting the students lead."

Wetzel has a simple message for the many students she's mentored: "You don't need to pay me back, but you are obligated to be a mentor for the next generation," she said. 📌

Maiju Lehmijoki Wetzel, Ph.D., BSN, R.N., with the 2024–2025 Health Outreach Baltimore advocates. Wetzel won the Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring at Maryland Day this year.

loyola.edu/go/prehealth-outreach

Learn more about Health Outreach Baltimore.



RECOGNITION

IT'S ALL IN THE SWIM TEAM FAMILY

SIBLINGS SHINE AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS A TEAM

BY PATRICK STEVENS

Three of **Joe Hayburn's** older siblings were Greyhounds, so he has been going to Loyola swimming and diving meets since he was in sixth grade.

When he began figuring out his own college destination, though, he started out with a different idea.

"Initially, I was like, 'There's no way I'm going to go to Loyola. I have to be different. Someone has to be different here,'" said Joe, '27. "I looked at a ton of different schools. But at the end of the day, I loved Loyola. I loved the team atmosphere. I love the balance between the work and the pool and just how much free time we have outside to pursue things we're passionate about."

Joe, now a sophomore, is not part of an unusual story at Loyola. Teams often fashion themselves as families. The Greyhounds under **Brian Loeffler, '91**, have become a magnet for them.



GRACE DWYER, '26



LUKE DWYER, '28

Loeffler is in his 37th consecutive year with the program—four while competing as an undergraduate, one as an assistant, and then the last 32 as the school's longest-tenured current head coach. And while he's not sure emphasizing family ties was intentional at the start, it's worked out that way all the same.



COURTESY OF TERI HAYBURN

"I think parents who send their first child to Loyola—and to our team—really like the experience that they've had, both educationally and with the team. So, they end up sending their sibling here as well," Loeffler said. "Other students who come here feel like they're part of something bigger, and so I think it's a natural fit when actual siblings come here as well."

Take the Dwyers, who grew up just north of New York City. **Grace Dwyer's** older brother swam at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, so she had spent time in the area and knew she would like the experience of attending college in Baltimore.

But what really hooked her in the recruiting process was when she spent time

with former Hound **Stella Meyerhoeffer, '24**, who introduced Dwyer to her friends and guided her around campus.

"I feel like when I saw that, that's when I knew I wanted to go to Loyola," said Grace, now a junior backstroke. "I loved how close-knit they all were. The campus was by far my favorite. I just felt it was the perfect fit for me, both school and swim-wise."

Two years later, it was her brother **Luke Dwyer's** turn. The family's familiarity with Loyola helped and so did one of Loeffler's biggest priorities: making sure everyone on his team felt they could have their own identity.

In other words, no one gets labeled as someone's kid sibling.

"I didn't want to be known as Grace's

Swimming at Loyola has become a Hayburn family tradition. From left: Patrick, '25; Annie, '20; Luke; Joe, '27; and Jimmy, '22



loyolagreyhounds.com

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

younger brother," said Luke, a first-year student. "It was definitely made known that I'd be my own person, and I'd be treated separately from Grace."

That was already a given by the time **Patrick Hayburn, '25**, decided to attend Loyola. He grew up in the Annapolis area and had already seen his sister, **Annie, '20**, and older brother, **Jimmy, '22**, come into the program. A senior sprinter who swims freestyle and butterfly events, Patrick recently finished his Loyola swimming career with Joe by his side while earning Patriot League Men's Swimming & Diving Scholar-Athlete of the Year honors.

After all the time he's spent around the Greyhounds over the years, it's clear to him the common thread that has made the program so welcoming.

"I'm so grateful to Coach Loeffler and the relationships he's formed with my family over the years," Patrick said. "He is a great coach. Everyone has had a positive experience with him. There have been a lot of swimmers that have succeeded through his program, and it continues to this day. The program keeps getting better and better, and it's a testament to his leadership here."

Loeffler's longstanding knowledge of the school matters, too. He touts to recruits that professors and administrators will get to know and invest in students. He also understands the University's mission and roots, ensuring the schedule has opportunities for athletes to attend Mass on the weekend.

"The Catholic piece for me is huge—and that family atmosphere," Joe said. "It kind of fosters a relationship that's deeper than, 'We're going to swim together and we're going to see each other.' It's a lot deeper, and it's so special. It goes beyond the four years of swimming."

"My brother Jimmy's getting married, and his wedding party is pretty much his siblings and his teammates at Loyola," Joe added. "I think it's a testament to the impact that both the team and the University have on the individual student-athlete." ●

Greyhounds Pride



Sydni Black Named NCAA Woman of the Year Top 10 Honoree

Former Loyola women's lacrosse standout **Sydni Black, '24**, has become the first Greyhound to be named a Top 10 Division I finalist for the NCAA's Woman of the Year award.

Black scored a team-high 76 goals, the second most in team history, while leading the Greyhounds to a sixth-straight NCAA tournament appearance in 2024. She finished her career ranked ninth all-time at Loyola in career goals (178) and points (248).

She earned her bachelor's degree in information systems and data analytics with a cumulative GPA of 3.8. On campus, Black served as a member of both the Green and Grey Society and the Diversity Advisory Board, and she was co-founder of Loyola's Student-Athletes for Social Justice group.

Greyhounds Remain Among NCAA Leaders in Graduation Rate

Loyola tied for fourth out of 353 Division I schools in the NCAA's latest Graduation Success Rate (GSR) data, marking the 20th straight year that the athletic department has been in the top six of the national rankings.

This year's cohort measured by the NCAA—first-year classes between 2014-15 and 2017-18—has a graduation success rate of 96% at Loyola.

Eight of the Greyhounds' teams attained scores of 100% in the report, and Loyola's 96% overall GSR ranks first among schools from the State of Maryland.

Golfers on the Professional Stage

Brandon Berry, '21, MBA '22, finished tied for 43rd at the final stage of the 2024 PGA Tour Q-School to earn Korn Ferry Tour status for the 2025 season. The Korn Ferry Tour is the top developmental tour for the PGA Tour.

Since the start of the 2025 Korn Ferry season, Berry made the cut in the first three tournaments of the year and had a tied for sixth finish at The Panama Championship.

Gustavo Rangel, '26, became the first Loyola or Patriot League player to participate in a PGA Tour event while still a student-athlete. Rangel received a sponsor's exemption and played in the Tour's Puerto Rico Open in early March.

Swimming & Diving Excels at Patriot League Championship Meet

Lily Mead, '24, M.S. '25, was named the Patriot League Female Swimmer of the Meet following the conference championships in February after she won three individual events and was part of a relay title.

Mead capped a tremendous career that saw her win eight Patriot League titles over her time on the Evergreen campus.

In addition to Mead's three individual titles, **Caleb Kelly, '24, M.Ed. '25**, won the 50 freestyle for the Loyola men; and the women's 200 freestyle and men's 200 medley relays won Patriot League crowns.

WE'VE GOT SPIRIT



A sea of excited fans at Loyolapalooza every spring.

Packed stands at Ridley for the Battle of Charles Street.

Student voices filling Alumni Memorial Chapel with spirit and song.

Loyola traditions are part of what makes Loyola Loyola—they are what students love about their time on the Evergreen campus and what bring alumni back. Campus traditions evolve over time, but they are woven into the fabric of Loyola's 170-plus year history—and they're an important part of our future. Loyola's strategic plan even has a goal to cultivate Greyhound pride. School spirit strengthens our bond as a community and ties yesterday to today to tomorrow.

Loyola magazine pulled together a few favorite customs and annual signature events—ask a Greyhound about these traditions, and they'll likely have a story to share of a memory made and treasured.

Maybe one of these is your favorite, too.

GREYHOUNDS EMBRACE LOYOLA TRADITIONS

BY LIAM DAVIS AND CLAIRE PERKINS, '23



PHOTOS COURTESY LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY

MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



A new academic year at Loyola doesn't get fully underway until the standing-room-only **Mass of the Holy Spirit** in Alumni Memorial Chapel takes place. Celebrating the Mass is not just a Loyola tradition, but a Jesuit one, dating back to 1548 in Messina, Sicily. At Loyola's Mass—MOTHS to today's students—Jesuits pray with and for the community in a vibrant celebration that is enhanced by student musicians.

Since joining Loyola in 1987, **Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.**, has participated in more than 30 Masses of the Holy Spirit at Loyola. The Mass that Fr. Brown will never forget was in 1992, when then-president, the **Rev. Joseph Sellinger, S.J.**, had just announced to the campus that he had been diagnosed with terminal pancreatic cancer.

"The Chapel was packed—fire code violation packed," said Fr. Brown, associate professor of law and social responsibility and assistant to the president for mission integration. "Fr. Sellinger presided with tears and gratitude. There was an overwhelming sense of a community deeply grateful to God for his visionary leadership. The Holy Spirit descended upon us that day."

Twice a year for the past 39 years, the Belles and the Chimes have taken the stage in McManus Theatre for a lively evening of song (and sometimes dance) at **Chordbusters**.

The Chimes and Belles were founded in 1981, but it was 1986 when they first came together in concert, said **Yamil Hernández, '25**, a member of the Chimes. "From sopranos to basses, the Belles and Chimes exemplify dedication to the arts and a love for our Loyola community," Hernández said.

"The legacies of a cappella have flourished for about 40 years at Loyola, sustaining the musical bond through traditions, alumni enthusiasm, and excitement for music," said **Cheyenne Hendricks, '26**, president of the Belles.

CHORDBUSTERS



CHORDBUSTERS PHOTOS COURTESY OF YAMIL HERNÁNDEZ, '25



#CHRISTMASATLOYOLA



LARRY FRENCH

BATTLE OF CHARLES STREET



XIMENA (JAY) MENDEZ, '20



BSA FASHION SHOW



SENIOR SOIRÉE - COMMENCEMENT

The **Christmas** season at Loyola is a magical time, as the Evergreen campus transforms into a winter wonderland. Lights, wreaths, and garlands adorn the lampposts and the USF&G Pedestrian Bridge. In a more recently added tradition, the Student Government Association's annual Christmas Tree Lighting lights up the Quad. Since 1988, Lessons & Carols has brought the campus together in the candle-lit Alumni Memorial Chapel for a beautiful evening of Advent and Christmas music and scripture.

Mark Lee, '91, has participated in 32 of the 36 services of Lessons & Carols, starting from his time as an undergraduate through his graduate school days at the University of Maryland, and as a Loyola administrator for the last two decades. "Lessons & Carols was not just one evening in the first week of December, but the culmination and joyful result of many weeks and hours of labor," Lee said. These days, "the black sportscoat I wear at every Lessons & Carols is older than a number of our faculty members. Yet, singing with the group is still a great pleasure and a reminder of who I am as a music minister, inviting listeners to something greater and to something more."

Loyola's **Battle of Charles Street** is between two universities located just one mile apart, as Greyhounds men's and women's lacrosse teams face The Johns Hopkins University Bluejays each spring. The matchup's origin dates back many decades, but it has taken on a new energy and excitement in recent years, as the Greyhounds men's lacrosse team has won seven out of its 11 most recent games in the series. The stands at Ridley Athletic Complex are packed with Greyhounds for the games, cheering with pride and decked out in green and grey.

Since 1998, music and fashion have come together as a sell-out crowd fills Reitz Arena for the **BSA Fashion Show**. The Black Student Association (BSA) has fused the two art forms into a campus-wide event showcasing talent and culture—and adding a highlight event that students clamor to attend. The student planners work for months making sure every detail is orchestrated and the evening is beautifully choreographed. The highly anticipated BSA Fashion Show concludes every year with the big reveal of the Loyolapalooza artist.

Dancing under the Loyola lights one last time, graduating Greyhounds celebrate four unforgettable years of memories at **Senior Soirée**. The senior class counts down all year to graduation and celebrates each of the 50 days leading up to **Commencement** during Senior Countdown Events (another amazing Loyola tradition). But the gala serves as the bookend of the Loyola experience. Greyhounds come together in true Evergreen fashion, dressed to the nines for one last hurrah. *See more about Commencement traditions on page 24.*

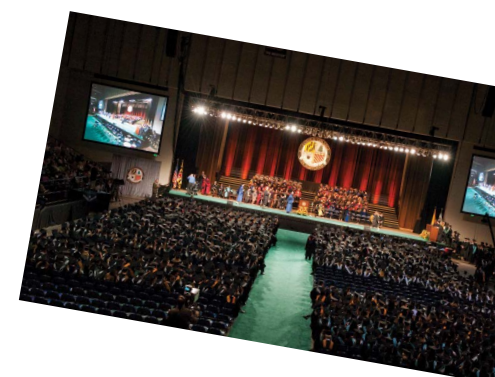
The Center for the Humanities has a 40-year history at Loyola, and for more than two decades, members of the Loyola community have gathered each spring to honor the liberal arts at the **Humanities Symposium**. Celebrating since 1986, the symposium's events connect students and faculty across diverse fields of study, such as modern languages and philosophy, to discuss a common text through an interdisciplinary lens.

The Humanities Symposium is one of many annual lectures elevating academic excellence and intellectual curiosity at the University, and it's a memorable one. **Billy Friebele**, associate professor of visual arts and director of the Humanities Symposium, said, "I have always enjoyed bringing my students to the Humanities Symposium because it breaks down the silos between disciplines and leads them to see a web of connections. This is the value of the liberal arts. It raises a key question for students that requires them to make connections, and this year we are asking: how can you enact change within your discipline of study to respond to the climate emergency?"

All spring, students are excited for **Loyolapalooza**, a student-coordinated springtime festival featuring a music headliner you won't want to miss. Since 2001, students and community members have come together each year to enjoy carnival rides and games, savor a variety of free finger foods, and, of course, listen to great music—including the winner of Loyola's very own Battle of the Bands. This year, **Gabby Mudric, '25**, Student Government Association director of events and traditions, is helping to plan the concert for her fellow Greyhounds.

"Loyolapalooza is a very special end-of-the-year celebration for Greyhounds and all their accomplishments," said Mudric. "It's one of the many ways we bring students together—playing yard games on the Quad, interacting with students from other classes, and just listening to music on a sunny day. I'm so grateful to be a part of bringing my favorite Loyola tradition to life."

loyola.edu/go/spirit-traditions
Learn more about traditions at Loyola.



Loyola magazine is excited to hear about the Greyhound memories that mean the most to you. Let us know your favorite #LoyolaTradition by emailing magazine@loyola.edu.

The pack is back together! There is no better feeling than having Greyhounds far and wide reunited for **Bull & Oyster Roast**—or B&O—a tradition that's held strong for 74 bull roasts. Held in recent years during Alumni Weekend, B&O brings its own flavor to the longest standing Loyola alumni tradition.

For **Hannah (Flury) Dauses, '19**, B&O offers an opportunity to reconnect with fellow Greyhounds, past and present, with a night of oyster shucking, live music, and dancing.

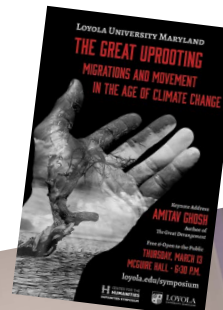
"After I graduated from Loyola, it was really important for me to stay in touch with classmates and feel connected to our Loyola experience. That's why I love attending B&O. I look forward to this night each year where Bull & Oyster ignites our Greyhound spirit."

BULL & OYSTER ROAST



SID KEISER

HUMANITIES SYMPOSIUM



LOYOLAPALOOZA



NOAH MANSFIELD, '25



To Give and Not Count the Cost



BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN PEPOSE, '07

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF
Ernie Bio, '98; Brandon Heck, '03, M.S. '05, Psy.D. '08;
Christel Hiltibran, '11; Cecilia Mota, '24; and
Ed Nolley, '68, MBA '82



From top: Christel Hiltibran, '11;
Brandon Heck, '03, M.S. '05,
Psy.D. '08; Cecilia Mota, '24;
Ed Nolley, '68, MBA '82;
and Ernie Bio, '98

LOYOLA'S MILITARY VETERANS CONTINUE TO LIVE OUT THE VALUES OF THEIR JESUIT EDUCATION THROUGH DEDICATED SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Every other month, **Ed Nolley, '68, MBA '82**, gathers with a group of old friends he met through Loyola's Greyhound Battalion Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program. "We share war stories that somehow get bigger and better every year," he said with a laugh. "I've stayed very close with these guys—we really rejoice in our past backgrounds and experiences."

Nolley is one of many Loyola alumni who have proudly served in the United States Armed Forces. Their stories, marked by courage and an unwavering commitment to service, exemplify the core values that are trademarks of Loyola's Jesuit, liberal arts education. Their unparalleled generosity and openness to sacrifice for their country, for freedom, and for all they encounter, offers a poignant example of how Loyola strives to graduate individuals who are prepared to "learn, lead, and serve in a diverse and changing world."



To honor these individuals, Loyola is undertaking initiatives such as the Veterans Recognition Project, which is gathering the names of alumni veterans to ensure their legacies are remembered and celebrated. Another tribute, the Veterans Plaza, is planned for the Quad as a permanent reminder of the valor and sacrifice of Loyola's military alumni.

These efforts build upon the University's long-standing commitment to military preparation through its ROTC program. For Nolley—who graduated with a degree in economics and returned for an MBA—his ROTC experience set him on the path to becoming a brigadier general in the Maryland Army National Guard, where he served for 30 years.

“I was on active duty in the U.S. Army for two years after graduation, and I really became a different person, in a good way,” he remembered. “Without Loyola, I might not have been in the military at all. I'm so grateful.”

Christel (Sacco) Hiltibran, who graduated in 2011 with a degree in political science,



Ed Nolley, '68, MBA '82, pictured with Ethel Kennedy, the wife of Senator Robert F. Kennedy and human rights advocate.

also reflects fondly on her ROTC years. “It is such a lively program,” she said. “It is a real brotherhood and sisterhood.”

Hiltibran knew from an early age that she wanted to join the military. In high school, she joined the United States Naval Sea Cadets Corps, the Navy's youth development program similar to Junior ROTC. After graduating from Loyola, she spent 10 years in the U.S. Army—five as a military intelligence officer and another five as a civil affairs officer.

Strong Truths Well Lived

To Nolley and Hiltibran, though, Loyola prepared them far beyond the ROTC program. “Beyond being my entrée to the military, Loyola taught me the value of a liberal arts education and understanding people who may not have the same advantages I've had in my life,” said Nolley, who mentored disadvantaged children in Baltimore throughout his undergraduate years.

Hiltibran was heavily involved in Loyola's Center for Community, Service, and Justice (CCSJ). “Similar to ROTC, CCSJ taught me about being part of a community and part of a bigger system within which we all depend on each other,” she remembered. “These programs not only taught me about service and selflessness, but also about teamwork and love for your neighbor, regardless of their circumstances, their histories, or their ideals.”

Ernie Bio—who graduated in 1998 with a B.S. in Cellular and Molecular Biology and a chemistry minor—reflected on his Loyola education often during his 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, which included 10 years as an F-16 fighter pilot and stints with U.S. Cyber Command and the Defense Innovation Unit. He now works as a cybersecurity-focused investor at a venture capital firm.

“Jesuit values definitely played a part in my growth as a person, in the military, and to this day,” he explained, noting that they helped him be comfortable with a career he never would have expected. “What resonated most is the education of the whole person—essentially going beyond academics and developing leadership, character, ethics, and service.”

Ernie Bio, '98, often reflected on his Loyola education during his 20 years in the U.S. Air Force, including 10 years as an F-16 fighter pilot.



Another graduate who discovered his passion for service at Loyola is **Brandon Heck**, who graduated in 2003 with a degree in psychology before returning for his master's in 2005 and his Psy.D. in 2008. After receiving his degrees, Heck served as an officer in the U.S. Navy for six years, working as a psychologist aboard an aircraft carrier for much of it. He later spent two years with the U.S. Marine Forces Special Operations Command.

Today, in addition to working for a private equity firm, he serves on the board of Loyola College, the University's school of arts and sciences. “Many of us come to Loyola for that service element, and when you're asked to serve, it's just not my style to say ‘no,’” he said of his board work. “I see it as a way to give back to a place that set me up for a great career.”

Lifetimes of Service

For many Loyola grads, the varied career opportunities of military service have allowed them to lean into their passions. Heck, for example, put his psychology degrees to use studying

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms and testing brain function on soldiers who had been exposed to bombs in Afghanistan and Iraq. He also counseled superior officers on topics like leadership, team effectiveness, and personnel development.

Once Heck left the military in 2014, those experiences translated well into business consulting work. He still finds himself regularly thinking back to the diversity of his liberal arts education. “I've had such a varied career, where I'm always dealing with different subject matters, different perspectives, and different personalities, and I credit so much of my adaptability to the broad education I received,” he said. “It helped me grow muscles I've been flexing ever since.”

Cecilia Mota, who graduated in 2024 with an interdisciplinary major in biology and speech, language, and hearing sciences, credits her military background and education for shaping her career. She joined the Marines at just 19 years old, doing missions in Kuwait, Iraq, and Syria as an Arabic linguist/SIGINT (signals intelligence) analyst.

Christel Hiltibran, '11, holding the 1st place trophy from the 2010 Ranger Challenge during her ROTC days. She still keeps in touch with many of the cadets on that team.



“I've had such a varied career, where I'm always dealing with different subject matters, different perspectives, and different personalities, and I credit so much of my adaptability to the broad education I received.”

Brandon Heck, '03, M.S. '05, Psy.D. '08



After serving five years in the Marines, Cecilia Mota, '24, (left) joined Loyola while also serving as an aerospace medical technician in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Brandon Heck, who discovered his passion for service at Loyola—where he earned three degrees—is pictured here during his time in the military, in Afghanistan.



“When you’re in the military, you know you’re part of a family, you’re part of a team, you’re doing something that’s way larger than yourself.”

Ernie Bio, '98



When Mota left the Marines after five years, she found herself drawn to Loyola. “I could feel a sense of community as I was walking on campus,” she said. “People just seemed happier there.”

During her time at Loyola, Mota also served as an aerospace medical technician in the U.S. Air Force Reserves. Through it all, she’s remained passionate about helping vulnerable populations. “In all these experiences, I’ve worked with people in all stages of their lives who are coming to you in a vulnerable state,” she said. “It’s not just about treating their disease; it’s asking them what they need and then matching the patient’s goals with your goals.”

Mota—who gave birth to her daughter just two days after graduation—recently started a new role as a medical assistant at an ENT (ear, nose, and throat) office and is currently applying to med school. “I’m so grateful for my military service

and for Loyola. It’s exciting to start a new chapter, knowing where I came from.”

Nolley has also dedicated his life to helping vulnerable people. In retirement, he’s been volunteering as an end-of-life doula at Gilchrist Hospice since 2014. His work in this area actually dates back to his first year at Loyola, when he worked as an orderly at the Keswick Multi-care Center.

To Nolley, a lifetime of service has taught him some important lessons. “Get the maximum out of each day and understand how many others aren’t as advantaged as we are,” he said. “Loyola really focused me in that direction.”

Community at the Core

For many veterans, the community aspects of military service have been a major draw. “I’ll always cherish the camaraderie and leadership that my time in the Air Force gave me,” said Bio.

“Beyond being my entrée to the military, Loyola taught me the value of a liberal arts education and understanding people who may not have the same advantages I’ve had in my life.”

Ed Nolley, '68, MBA '82

“When you’re in the military, you know you’re part of a family, you’re part of a team, you’re doing something that’s way larger than yourself.”

During Hiltibran’s time in the Army, one of her roles was to work with pre-war or post-war nations to identify and help address vulnerabilities like healthcare, education, transportation, or women’s rights. She remembers a formative experience in a small fishing village in Indonesia, which had been exposed to countless natural disasters, including tsunamis, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

“I saw how reliant so much of the world is on the Earth, on natural resources, and on community,” she explained, noting that the experience led to her current career working in conservation and climate issues.

Through it all, she’s been guided by the Jesuit lesson of *cura personalis*. “Often times you’ll hear that in the military, you’re just a number. But in my role as a leader, I really did care for individuals in specific ways, according to their needs,” she said. “The way that I’ve cared for fellow soldiers, and the communities I’ve been exposed to, is something I’ve carried with me into my home life, my workplace, and beyond. We all need to have each other’s backs.”

loyola.edu/rotc

Learn more about Loyola’s ROTC program.



A Grateful Tribute

BY RITA BUETTNER, M.A. '24

Loyola plans to add a veterans plaza to campus to honor and thank alumni veterans

During nearly 20 years of working for Loyola, Brian Oakes has had the opportunity to meet many alumni who have served their country. Those veterans have spoken proudly of their time at Loyola and how their military service shaped their life after Loyola. Their stories have had a profound impact on Oakes.

“Sometimes in our conversations, alumni would mention that they were surprised Loyola had never found a way to honor their service,” said Oakes, Loyola’s vice president for advancement and a 1999 graduate of Loyola who earned his MBA in 2010. “I had the sense that it wasn’t that they wanted to be honored themselves, but that they wanted to see their fellow veterans recognized.”

Then Oakes participated in the Ignatian Colleagues Program (ICP), an 18-month opportunity offered through the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities. ICP invites participants—leaders from Jesuit institutions throughout the network—to reflect on Jesuit values and consider how to bring them to life on their campuses.

“A lot of what we learned reinforced the teachings about Jesuit values and challenged us to consider how that relates to being a leader on a Jesuit college campus,” Oakes said. “One thing I was really struck by was how we are called to make sure we are accompanying the members of our community and making sure people feel seen and valued. During my time at Loyola, I’ve seen tremendous growth in trying to ensure that all members of our community feel included. However, our

veteran community came to mind for me, and I started asking colleagues what we might do to honor them in a special way.”

The office of alumni engagement launched an effort to gather the names of alumni who have served in the United States Armed Forces. The goal is to ensure that Loyola veterans are recognized and honored on a Veterans Honor Roll, which will be published and maintained on the alumni website. From there, the idea for a physical space gained traction within the University community, and colleagues partnered with a design firm to create a concept for a physical tribute that would be placed on the Academic Quadrangle.

The veterans plaza that has been designed for the Quad includes a pedestal to represent each of the Armed Forces—Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Space Force. Settled between two existing oak trees, the plaza will feature special lighting and a flagpole. It’s designed to invite members of the community to pause, reflect, and remember—and think of those who have given so selflessly over the years.

Fundraising efforts are underway now, with the goal of completing the installation of the veterans plaza by 2028.

“In the past, I think Loyola has done a great job thanking veterans for their service one on one,” Oakes said. “But we are hoping this physical space on campus will offer us a way to show our gratitude clearly and publicly.”



DO YOU KNOW A VETERAN WHO GRADUATED FROM LOYOLA? Let us know!

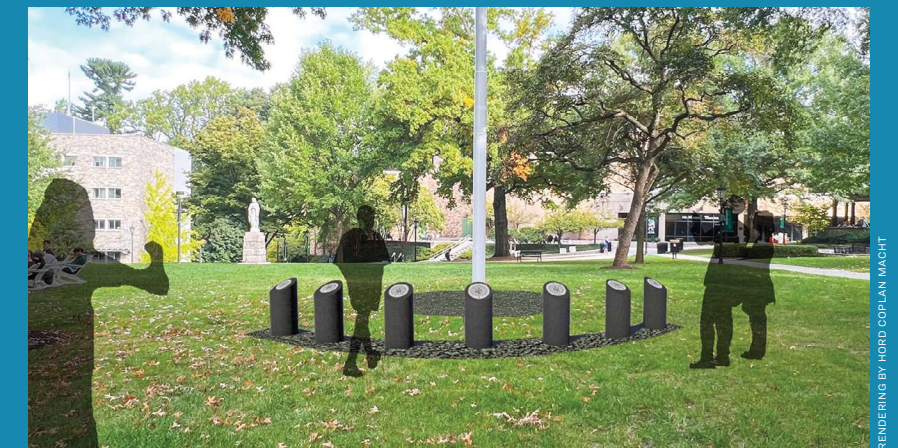




PHOTO OF THE 1961 COMMENCEMENT ON THE QUAD, COURTESY LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY.

VINTAGE

1961 COMMENCEMENT EVER TRUE AT EVERGREEN

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

Loyola's Commencement has been held in different locations over the years, but the 1961 ceremony filled the Quad. That was typically the setting for Commencement from 1951 until 1983, when the classes who were graduating outgrew the space.

In 1961, Commencement was on Sunday, June 4. **Ralph J. Bunche, Ph.D.**, then-undersecretary general of the United Nations and winner of a Nobel Peace Prize, gave the Commencement speech to the 130 graduates, their families, and other esteemed guests.

Bunche, who received a Doctor of Laws honorary degree from Loyola, spoke on "The Quest for Peace" in the nuclear age and the faith necessary to achieve it. He shared that while the world faced significant challenges, individuals have the power and responsibility to contribute to a better future through hope, integrity, and action. He emphasized that peace is attainable if individuals uphold freedom, dignity, and respect for all.

"Maintain the peace and there is truly in prospect a new world, a world of unparalleled promise," he told the graduates.

Though the location of Commencement has changed through the years, many of the traditions have continued for generations, as the ceremonies have been shaped by prayers, inspiring speeches, academic regalia, and proud families cheering for their graduates.

[loyola.edu/
commencement](https://loyola.edu/commencement)
Learn more about
Commencement at Loyola.



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Debbie Phelps, M.Ed. '98, was honored with Loyola's inaugural School of Education Distinguished Alumni Award in 2024.

RYAN HEBLER '26

ALUMNI PROFILE

CALLED TO THE CLASSROOM

DEBBIE PHELPS, M.ED. '98, REFLECTS ON AN IMPACTFUL CAREER IN EDUCATION

BY LIAM DAVIS

Debbie Phelps, M.Ed. '98, has always loved learning. She remembers the names of all the teachers who shaped her childhood—the ones she loved, as well as the ones who challenged her and taught her lifelong lessons.

Upon graduating from Bruce High School in 1969, she felt called to the classroom to make a difference in the lives of children through the gift of education, as her teachers had done for her. She attended Allegany Community College for a year then transferred to Fairmont State College, graduating in 1973. At 25, she returned to school at the University of Maryland (UMD) to pursue her master's. While at UMD, however, she began raising a family and was no longer able to make the commute to College Park. She paused her education, unsure what the future would hold.

Years later, as the proud mother of three kids—all swimmers, all in school—she wanted to do something for herself. Moreso, she wanted to prove something to herself. That's how she found her way to Loyola, where she would earn her M.Ed. in Education Management & Supervision.

"Loyola drew me in," Phelps recalled. "I loved the campus, loved the energy. Just by driving by on Charles Street, the energy called me to go there. I was so happy to be accepted and join that diverse community."

At Loyola, Phelps quickly connected with the education department faculty. One of her professors, **Beatrice Sarlos, Ph.D.**, recognized her creativity and ability to create and communicate diverse material to students and inspired her to go into curriculum development. **Joseph Procaccini, Ph.D.**, was another mentor and faculty member she admired throughout her studies and who encouraged her to focus on administrative leadership.

"The faculty made it personable. They were able to talk with you to get a sense of your ideas and your passions, while also giving you theirs," Phelps said. "Doors were never closed. Opportunities were always provided."

That openness and communication fostered an environment where all ideas

and possibilities were considered. Throughout her graduate studies, Phelps never stopped working—a teacher by day, a student by night. It was challenging, but she always felt welcomed and supported.

"The culture of Loyola is one of very high expectations, but also very welcoming and very warm and inviting," said Phelps.

Phelps' Loyola experience served as the cornerstone for her career as a transformative leader in education. She evolved her experiences from teacher to team leader to department chair, before ultimately entering administration. She served as Windsor Mill Middle School's inaugural principal from 2005-12, then went on to become the first female executive director of The Education Foundation of Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), energizing and expanding the foundation at an unprecedented rate.

Phelps has also lent her expertise to numerous advisory boards, including serving as a member of Loyola's School of Education Board of Advisors since its inception in 2009. She is a board member of the Michael Phelps Foundation, created by her Olympian son and focused on growing the sport of swimming while encouraging healthy lifestyles.

A renowned author and motivational speaker, Phelps has earned countless accolades throughout her career. In November 2024, she was honored with Loyola's inaugural School of Education Distinguished Alumni Award. She recently announced her retirement following an extraordinary 50-year career, including nearly 30 years with BCPS.

Reflecting on her journey, Phelps, who resides in Baltimore, fondly recalls her time at Loyola and how it shaped her path.

"As I stop, pause, and reflect on my time attending Loyola, I know it was the perfect place to end a busy day after being in the schoolhouse with students and educators," Phelps shared. "Loyola was the ideal learning environment to grow professionally and personally in a collaborative, diverse community." 🗨️

GIVING NEWS

EMPOWERING NURSING STUDENTS TO FULFILL THEIR DREAMS

\$3.5 million gift from Kimberly Spiro to establish nursing simulation lab

BY LIAM DAVIS



Kimberly Spiro's mother, Evelyn, was only 16 and an immigrant from Norway when she started nursing school in New York. She went on to graduate at the top of her class.

When Spiro heard about Loyola's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program, she couldn't help but think about her mother's journey to become a nurse in the 1940s. Now, she is supporting Loyola's program with a \$3.5 million gift to establish a nursing simulation lab.

"The vision that Loyola has for their nursing program is just like the school of nursing on Staten Island that gave my mother the opportunity to fulfill her dream," shared Spiro. "I'm very, very happy that Loyola will be there to fulfill other students' dreams."

Spiro first became involved in the Loyola community when her daughter, **McKenzie Gaw, '18**, was a student. As a member of the Parents Council, she was inspired by the way Loyola's parents embraced the Jesuit way of giving back.

loyola.edu/go/support-nursing
Learn more about supporting nursing at Loyola.



Her gift to Loyola's nursing program will outfit the lab with equipment and materials, as well as create an endowed fund to cover expenses such as training lab operators, additional operating costs,

equipment, and supplies. The lab will be named the Spiro Nursing Simulation Lab in recognition of her support.

"A gift like this can be truly transformative, especially for a new program like Loyola's Bachelor of Science in Nursing," said **Brian M. Oakes, '99, MBA '10**, vice president for advancement. "Kimberly Spiro's significant investment in Loyola and her deep commitment to excellence in nursing education will benefit students and faculty for years to come."

ALUMNI PROFILE

THE BEST IS YET TO COME

JOHN MCNAMARA, '06, STRIVES TO WORK FOR SOMETHING GREATER

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR., '94

A line from his 2006 Loyola graduation program has always stuck with John McNamara.

"It said something to the effect of, it's not what our students do, it's what kind of people they become," the New Jersey native recalled.

Nearly two decades later, McNamara is proof of that philosophy in action. As the recipient of Loyola's inaugural James B. Sellinger Family Alumni Impact Award—recognizing leadership, integrity, and commitment to service—he has dedicated himself not just to professional success but also to making a difference.

A former young alumni representative to Loyola's Board of Trustees, McNamara currently leads the New York chapter of the Alumni Association, bringing graduates together to foster professional connections and a commitment to service.

"We share a common fondness for our time on the Evergreen campus, but also a belief that we're living and working for something greater than ourselves," said McNamara, who has also served on Loyola's Alumni Association Advisory Board.

As a managing director in Stifel's Diversified Industries Investment Banking Group in New York, McNamara has completed more than 75 transactions during his 19-year career. He specializes in environmental services.

"My role at Stifel can be fast-paced and focused on capital markets and monetary valuations," he explained, "but I've done my best to not lose sight of a greater picture or greater cause."

In the last two years, he has partnered with **Astrid Schmidt-King, J.D.**, associate



John McNamara, '06, with his wife, Suzy Pacia, '06, on the Evergreen campus as he's honored with the inaugural James B. Sellinger Family Alumni Impact Award.

teaching professor of management and organizations, to create a program allowing Loyola sustainability students to attend Stifel's investor summit at the annual WasteExpo national conference.

"We expose students to industry leaders and trends in waste and recycling," said McNamara, a business major and Spanish minor. "I also make it a point to ask what they're learning at Loyola that we should be sharing with industry executives."

McNamara first became aware of Loyola through his mother, a New Jersey high school teacher who noticed many of her top students choosing to attend the Jesuit university in Baltimore. Once on campus, he embraced student life, competing on the swimming and diving team and holding leadership roles in student government. He also spent a semester in Alcalá de Henares, Spain, as part of Loyola's study abroad program.

In his senior year, McNamara ran for president of the student body on a ticket with **Suzy Pacia, '06**, a fellow senior who had been involved in everything from serving as a resident assistant to being the goalie on the club soccer team and an

assembly person in student government.

"Our campaign motto was, 'The best is yet to come,'" McNamara remembered. "And it aligned with the fact that we had a new president coming in with the inauguration of **Father (Brian) Linnane** in the fall of our senior year."

The campaign motto proved prophetic beyond politics.

Not only did McNamara and Pacia win the election and serve together in government, they also married four years after graduation, with the **Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.**, officiating their wedding at Loyola's Alumni Memorial Chapel.

Now a father of three and active at his family's parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Pelham, New York, McNamara said he is grateful to the many Loyola mentors who shaped him, and he is humbled to be the first recipient of the James B. Sellinger Family Alumni Impact Award, presented at the 2024 Business Leader of the Year event.

"I owe a lot to Loyola personally and professionally," he said. "I hope to continue working with the University for many years, and I hope this award inspires more alumni to stay connected." 📍

PHILIP WEBER

Family Bound by Hounds



loyola.edu/
greyhound-authors

Find a list of recent titles by Greyhound authors.

AUTHOR Q&A: SALLY DIPAULA, MSA '69

ONCE UPON A TIME IN BALTIMORE

BY JOE MESA, '25



Sally DiPaula—a proud alumna of Mount Saint Agnes College, which merged with Loyola in 1971—has woven a rich web of Baltimore's history and culture in her debut novel, *Once Upon a Time in Baltimore*. The narrative delves into the intertwined lives of Irish and Italian immigrant families, reflecting on the city's diverse heritage and following the families through the Spanish Flu epidemic, the Roaring '20s, the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-war era. DiPaula's academic journey includes an M.A. in English Language and Literature from the University of Maryland. She lives in the Washington, D.C., area and continues to explore and write about the complexities of cultural intersections.

Once Upon a Time in Baltimore is deeply rooted in a sense of place. How did the city itself shape your writing process?

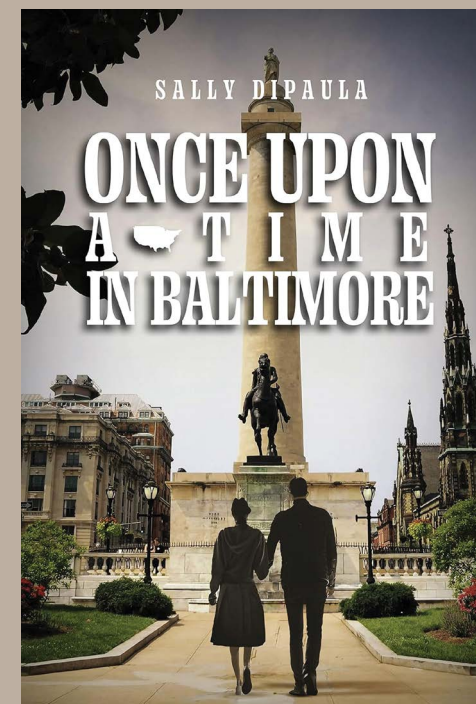
Since Baltimore was a city full of European immigrants at the time the novel takes place, it served as the perfect setting for the book. There were Italians, Irish, Germans, Eastern Europeans—all intermingling with each other and sometimes marrying each other. It was a place full of stories. I just chose the one closest to my heart.

Were there moments during the writing process that surprised you—either about the city or yourself?

One surprise was that, in many ways, Baltimore had not changed from my youth there and, I assume, from the time period of *Once Upon a Time in Baltimore*. Little Italy is still Little Italy, for example. In addition, there are resources available now that capture the first half of 20th-century Baltimore and which really helped my research, such as the Baltimore Immigration Museum in Locust Point and the Irish Railroad Workers Museum in West Baltimore.

How did your education at Mount Saint Agnes influence the way you approach storytelling?

I remember from my years at the Mount the seemingly overwhelming amount of term papers and essays I had to write. It was very good practice for a wannabe writer. Then there was the reading, not only at the Mount but at my high school—Mercy High School—and later at the University of Maryland.



Once Upon a Time in Baltimore is part of a larger storyline. Can you share your plans for the series?

I am almost finished the first draft of the sequel, and it involves the four grown children of the main characters in the first book. It is told from the viewpoint of each and features two wars (Korea and Vietnam) plus other problems the characters face over a period of many years. That, I hope, will be followed by a prequel about the immigrant father of the Italian character and the immigrant mother of the Irish one. 📍

OTHER LOYOLA AUTHORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Thinking Through Aquinas: Essays on God, Humanity, and Christ, Author: **Fritz Bauerschmidt, Ph.D.**, professor of theology

Great Ideas, Gentle as Doves (Second Edition), Author: **Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.**, assistant to the president for mission integration and associate professor of law and social responsibility

Near Strangers, Author: **Marian Crotty, Ph.D.**, associate professor of writing

Mosaic, Author: **Laura Gaddis, M.S. '07**

Desde un Camino Olvidado des Todos: Mujer Vanguardia, Exilio y Existencialismo en La Sin Razón de Rosa Chacel, Author: **Ana Gómez-Pérez, Ph.D.**, associate professor of modern languages and literatures

The Internal Colony: Race and the American Politics of Global Decolonization, Author: **Sam Klug, Ph.D.**, assistant teaching professor of history

Tolkien, Philosopher of War, Author: **Graham McAleer, Ph.D.**, professor of philosophy

Huon D'Auvergne: An Edition and Translation of the Fourteenth-Century Chanson de Geste in Berlin, Kupferstichkabinett MS 78 D 8T, Author: **Leslie Zarker Morgan, Ph.D.**, professor emerita of modern languages and literatures

The Electric God and Other Shorts, Author: **Michael Perone, '99**

Adventures in Statistics: How We Live in a World of Numbers, Author: **Robert T. Stewart, Ph.D., '91**

Family Class Notes

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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



1983

Jonette B. Owen, Au.D., MHA, FNAP, received the 2024 George S. Osborne Award at the annual Pennsylvania Academy of Audiology Conference in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

1992

Colleen Devaney Craig (MBA) received the Outstanding Chamber Service award at the 39th annual Golden Osprey Awards held by the Jersey Shore Chamber of Commerce. Craig is the founder of Jersey Shore Marketing & Insights.

1997

Tiffany Mason was appointed chief financial officer of H&R Block.

2004

Dennis McIver earned his Ph.D. in Leadership Studies from California Baptist University.

Yetunde Olumide (MBA), chief financial officer of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, was named to the 2024 Class of Finance Leaders Fellows by the Aspen Institute.

2007

David and Claire Hoffman Pepose were married in Los Angeles on Sept. 1, 2024.

25 YEARS OF LUNCHESS

Mark Bowden, '73, joined **Craig Bowden, '06**, **Dennis Morton, Sr., '74**, **Dennis Morton, Jr., '99**, **Leslie and Brian Bowden, '80**, **Don Bowden, '78**, and **Dick Bowden, '74**, at an annual lunch with **Thomas Scheye, Ph.D.**, Loyola Distinguished Service Professor, in 2024. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the lunches together, which Mark Bowden hosts for some of Scheye's former students.

2011

Euland and Rodney Parker (M.S.), Ph.D. '17, welcomed their second daughter, Elaina Michelle, on Nov. 1, 2024.

2012

Alex and Rachel Duden Lazo were married on May 3, 2024, at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation in Annapolis, Maryland.

2013

Stacey Wittelsberger (MBA) was named one of the *Baltimore Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 honorees in 2024. Wittelsberger is a partner at Patriot Capital.

2014

Joelle Hernandez and Jordan Hernandez were honored by the city of Hoboken during Hispanic Heritage Month with a proclamation thanking them for their contributions to the city.

Frank Nicoletta was promoted to senior vice president of Citi in New York City.

Jonathan Pennacchia, S.J., (right) was ordained a deacon in October 2024.

Nicholas Scutari (M.A. '20, MBA '25), was promoted to e-commerce director and digital lead of United States Beverage in New York City.

Tiana Wynn (MBA) was elected Board President at The Arc Baltimore.

2016

Michael Balcom and Taylor Hartman were married on July 27, 2024, at the Breakwater Inn in Kennebunkport, Maine.

2018

Ben O'Connor was selected as a 2024 Living Classrooms Foundation Rising Star presented by the *Baltimore Business Journal*.

2019

Kathryn Adelsberger, (M.Ed.) Ed.D., was named one of the *Baltimore Business Journal's* 40 Under 40 honorees in 2024. Adelsberger is the principal of Mercy High School in Baltimore.

Brooke Hurlbrink was elected to the Philadelphia Bar Association's (PBA) Young Lawyers Division's Executive Committee. Hurlbrink is an associate at Fox Rothschild.



Charles "Charlie" R. Graham, Jr., Ph.D., '62, professor emeritus of biology, passed away on Aug. 5, 2024. He was 84. Graham joined the faculty in 1966 as an associate professor of biology and served as chair of Loyola's biology department from 1975-77. He retired in 2006 after 40 years of teaching. While his primary fields of study were ichthyology, marine biology, and shark physiology, Graham also had an interest in sight-saving surgical procedures. Graham is survived by his wife, Patricia Cole Graham, and their four children, including **Charles Raymond Graham III, '85**, and **Michael Emory Graham, '93**, and a grandson.



Mary Bloom Hyman, longtime Loyola educator and benefactor of the largest-ever employee gift to the University, passed away on Sept. 23, 2024, at the age of 97. Hyman, who joined Loyola in 1990, served as the coordinator for science education programs and the coordinator for the Institute for Child Care Education. Upon her retirement in 2016, she made a \$2 million planned gift to Loyola, with the intention of attracting more talented science students. Hyman, who was predeceased by her husband, Sigmund, is survived by her two daughters, her sister, and her grandson, **Matthew Piccinini, '25**.



Rev. James "Jerry" F. McAndrews, S.J., philosophy faculty member, died on Nov. 23, 2024, at the age of 96. McAndrews, a native of Adams, Massachusetts, entered the Society of Jesus in 1951 and was ordained a priest in 1962. McAndrews taught philosophy at Loyola before becoming president of Loyola Blakefield for nearly two decades, where he oversaw the addition of a middle school. He also served as pastor of St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville, North Carolina, and was parochial vicar at Old St. Joseph's Church in Philadelphia.



Melvin P. Miller, Ph.D., '57, professor emeritus of chemistry, passed away on Dec. 8, 2024. He was 89. During his 37-year career as a chemistry professor at Loyola, Miller served as chair of the chemistry department and was actively involved in the Radio Club. A lifelong advocate of science and chemistry, Miller was also a member and past chairman of the Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society. Miller is survived by his wife, Virginia; two children, **Gregory Miller, '88**, and **Christopher Miller, '90**; and five grandchildren.



James "Jim" P. O'Connor, '49, former trustee, died on Dec. 19, 2023. He was 94. O'Connor was a founder of one of Maryland's largest home sales firms, O'Connor, Piper & Flynn. Over his career, he donated his time, expertise, and resources to several boards and charitable organizations in the Baltimore area, including Loyola. Loyola honored him with the Carroll Medal and the Alumnus of the Year Award. His family members who are alumni include his father, former Maryland governor and U.S. senator, **Herbert O'Connor, Class of 1917**.

John J. Dyer, III, '50, December 2024

Robert M. Parent, '55, August 2024

Edgar L. Purcell, '56, December 2024

Richard L. Ball, Jr., '58, August 2024

Margaret Mary C. Dietz, Ph.D., '58, M.Ed. '81, January 2025

Col. Karl E. May, '59, December 2024

Nicholas J. Kollman, '62, January 2025

William H. Kelly, '63, October 2024

Martin C. Pilsch, Jr., '63, November 2024

Dennis B. Burke, '64, October 2024

G. Norman Dreisch, '65, October 2024

Raymond G. Aumiller, '66, MBA '71, November 2024

James A. Genthner, '66, July 2024

Richard E. Cooke, '67, August 2024

Family In Memoriam

Rev. Timothy Tooten, Sr., D.Min., affiliate professor of communication and media, died on Feb. 8, 2025. Tooten, who was 66, will be remembered for his media expertise, his enthusiasm for storytelling, and the joy he brought to the classroom and his colleagues. Tooten started teaching a class at Loyola in August 2000 while working full-time as a broadcast journalist with WBAL-TV, and he had been offering courses at Loyola for almost 25 years.



Richard J. Knauer, Jr., '68, August 2024

W. Denny Lawrence III, '68, November 2024

Salvatore E. Anello III, Esq., '69, October 2024

George A. Bealefeld, '69, October 2024

R. Bruce Armiger, '71, MBA '77, August 2024

Sr. Dolores Glick, MSHS, '71, M.Ed. '76, November 2024

Ruth C. Hill, M.Ed. '72, November 2024

Margaret Dill Judy, '72, July 2024

Ethel Griffith Rothe, M.Ed. '72, December 2024

Rodney D. Fulton, '73, M.S. '75, July 2024

Penelope P. Paxton, MBA '73, October 2024

Richard P. Ellingsworth, MBA '75, October 2024

Michael J. Scoles, '75, September 2024

Bernard W. Dobrzykowski, '76, August 2024

Thomas R. Wojtek, '76, September 2024

Emily M. Adams, Ph.D., '77, M.S. '80, December 2024

Mary E. Bourgeois, M.Ed. '77, July 2024

Msgr. James W. Hannon, '78, October 2024

Patricia B. Thorpe, MMS '79, December 2024

Sr. Mary C. Hopkins, O.P., M.S. '80, July 2024

Paul S. Matassa, '81, October 2024

Christopher B. Costello, MBA '82, January 2025

John R. Worden, M.A. '82, December 2024

Robert J. Patterson, MPA '83, July 2024

Regina M. Forlifer, '84, October 2024

M. Elliott Randolph, Jr., MBA '84, November 2024

Janet E. Seibert, MBA '85, October 2024

The Rev. Jorge Ferrer, S.J., M.S. '88, September 2024

Jerome L. Fine, MMS '88, August 2024

Marilyn A. Cramer, M.S. '89, November 2024

Victor R. Despard III, M.S. '90, September 2024

Maritoni D. Sarmiento, '90, November 2024

Christi D. Bello, M.Ed. '91, December 2024

Maximilian Hernandez, MBA '93, November 2024

George C. Kimos, '94, September 2024

Diana L. Wolf, M.A. '99, December 2024

Joseph S. Latta, '01, October 2024

Jeff Hunt, '09, November 2024

Bryce Carrasco, '19, November 2024

Courtney Barbella, '22, September 2024

Daniel Edwards, '23, December 2024

HOW TO HAVE FUN AT WORK

ISABEL (IZZY) BILOTTA, PH.D., '18, INDUSTRIAL-ORGANIZATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST

BY MADISON BORIS, '14



Isabel (Izzy) Bilotta, Ph.D., '18, is the head of learning and innovation at Deutser, a Houston-based change management consultancy. With a B.A. in Psychology from Loyola and a Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology from Rice University, she leads research, leadership development, and culture initiatives. Here she shares tips and tricks for how to bring more fun into the workday.

1 Get Some Air

Create a culture where stepping outside is seen as a productive pause rather than a luxury. Encourage your team to take breaks outside or hold meetings in outdoor spaces. Sunlight not only helps regulate sleep cycles but also boosts serotonin, improving mood and focus.

2 Rethink Meetings

Reinvent your meetings to spark engagement and fun. Incorporate creative elements like sharing a meme to kick off discussions or hosting a Jeopardy-style culture quiz. A little innovation can go a long way in creating excitement, fostering inclusion, and boosting morale.

3 Make It a Game

Incorporate fun activities that also have a purpose. Games can be a safe way to explore new ideas, break down hierarchies, and encourage collaborative thinking. For example, you can use LEGO to promote creative problem-solving or run leadership development simulations that allow team members to step outside their usual roles.

4 Allocate "Play" Time

Taking a cue from companies like Google and Patagonia, allocate time for free exploration at work. Allow employees to use work time to pursue passion projects, experiment with new ideas, or simply play with innovative tools and technologies. Free time for creative exploration encourages employees to think outside the box.

5 Move Together

Movement is a powerful way to foster collaboration and creativity. Incorporate walking meetings, or other workday opportunities for movement, to break free from the confines of traditional office settings.



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Nothing says warm weather like a bountiful farmers market offering fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, crabs and seafood, and so much more. Loyola's York Road Initiative is gearing up for its 14th season of the Govans Farmers Market, which provides the York Road community of north Baltimore with affordable, healthy food on Wednesdays, May 28 to Nov. 5.

www.govansmarket.org

Learn more about the Govans Farmers Market.

