

## Carlos Amador, B.A. '16



Loyola has been my home for four years, which have been engraved in my heart forever. These years have been one of the many blessings God has given to me. My mother's influence in my life has taught me to appreciate the education and values that Loyola has instilled in me. While at Loyola I have lived justice by collaborating with many issues involving the Latino population and their impact on the Loyola campus.

As an immigrant, I have experienced many of the injustices that Latinos face in this country. When I arrived here, I was unaware that my safety would depend on my knowledge of English. One day I left school to go home. While walking, I was approached by a group of teenagers. The young men asked for my money. I tried to explain to them that I needed the money for bus fare. Unfortunately, my English was limited to the word "yes". After pleading with them in Spanish to not take my money, they continued to attack me. I could not speak English and calling for help in Spanish was useless. I will never forget the day when the word "ayuda" meant nothing to the world. I knew that learning English was necessary for my survival and success in the United States. The first word I learned after the accident was "help" and I thank God for giving me the privilege to have learned English. It is through my personal story that I have been able to live and

show justice at Loyola. Sharing the struggle of coming to the States illegally and the dangers I had to face have made many students at Loyola aware of the difficulties many Latinos go through on their journey to a better life. I have developed some of my best friendships through the process of sharing my story. My friends live justice by showing compassion and empathy to my life story.

Justice is about giving and showing compassion to others, and the Loyola community has shown me that and more. I have experienced acts of kindness through the positions I have held at Loyola such as Resident Assistant (R.A.), President of the Association of Latin American and Spanish Students (ALAS), and member of Loyola's Green and Grey Society. I have always been encouraged to share my culture. I am grateful for the ability to be open about my culture without having to hide the richness of it. I believe that Loyola is an institution that allows students to experience justice by exposing them to social issues and also by allowing them to share their experiences with the rest of the Loyola community. I love Loyola, and I live justice by sharing my story so that others can have a better understanding of Latino issues on and off campus.