

LOYOLA

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UNIVERSITY
MARYLAND
MAGAZINE

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offer insight into a new
chapter in Church history

2025
Issue // Fall



DOUBLE FEATURE

Former Greyhounds lacrosse standout
Pat Spencer, '19, now laces up NBA shoes



AARON BOUTWELL

Loyola students show their school pride off campus, on top of historic Federal Hill.

SCENE

LOYOLA LAUNCHES NEW UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

BY LIAM DAVIS

As students returned to Baltimore and campus this fall, Loyola launched several new programs within Loyola College, the University's school of arts and sciences. Next fall will also see the introduction of two new programs in the Sellinger School of Business and Management as Loyola evolves to meet the changing needs of students and the marketplace.

In addition to welcoming the first cohort of nursing students this fall, Loyola launched a new Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science degree to prepare students for growing career opportunities in the field. Environmental Studies has also expanded to become Environmental Science and Studies, offering both a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies, with a concentration in either Environmental Humanities or Environment, Society, and Policy.

Beginning in fall 2026, Sellinger will offer two new majors: a Bachelor of Science in Real Estate and a Bachelor of Science in Financial Risk Management and Insurance.

"These new programs build upon the expertise and dedication of our outstanding faculty and Loyola's strong liberal arts foundation while expanding our academic offerings to meet the evolving needs of our students," said **Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D.**, provost and senior vice president. "These programs will benefit not only the Loyola community, but also our community as a whole as we strive to form future leaders who graduate ready to serve in a diverse and changing world."

VIEW FROM THE PORCH

One of our newer campus traditions—and one of my favorites—takes place once a year during the halftime of a Greyhounds basketball game. As the teams head to the locker room to prepare for the second half, two groups of faculty, staff, and administrators take Forbes Court for an employee matchup.

Cheered on by students and colleagues, we face off in a good-natured—but also competitive—game. I love the spirit and excitement the fans bring to Reitz Arena, whether they're cheering on their colleagues in an annual matchup or our exceptional scholar-athletes who compete at the highest level.

At Loyola, we recognize that school spirit means more than yelling “Go Hounds!” and wearing Green and Grey. When we emphasize growing and celebrating school spirit, we mean we want our students and alumni to be proud of their Loyola education—and use it to make a difference in the world. We want our employees to know they are contributing to an institution that brings about positive, transformational change through education. We want people outside Loyola to marvel at the power of a Loyola education, the strength of our community, and the incredible way that our mission propels us forward.

I hope you take pride in your connection to Loyola and that you see alumni applying their Jesuit, liberal arts education in your community—and in the world. In this issue alone, you'll learn about former Loyola students who are competing in the NBA and in the Paralympics, writing bestselling books, celebrating Masses as newly ordained priests, making leadership gifts that will shape the future of Loyola, and reflecting on the legacy of our late Holy Father and the promise of a new one. Loyola graduates are leading with mind, body, and spirit—and they're making us proud. *You* are making us proud.

If you haven't been to campus lately, I hope you will stop by soon, perhaps for Alumni Weekend in February. Or come cheer on your favorite players at our employee basketball game. We will save you a seat.

God bless and go Hounds.

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



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LOYOLA UNIVERSITY MARYLAND MAGAZINE

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PHOTO BY AARON BOUTWELL
President Terrence M.
Sawyer, J.D., is a fan of
Loyola's mascot, Iggy.

NEWS FROM LOYOLA

EMPOWERING FUTURE EDUCATORS AND FOSTERING CURA PERSONALIS

A GIFT FROM ELAINE AND ANTHONY GRILLO MAKES A TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

BY LIAM DAVIS

“Our desire to give this gift to Loyola really comes down to faith, hope, and love.”

Elaine Grillo

A gift from **Elaine and Anthony Grillo** will provide critical assistance to students pursuing degrees in education and support the renovation and expansion of Donnelly Science Center. The Grillos’ \$1 million contribution will establish the Grillo Future Educators Fund and create and name the Grillo Family Reflection Space, a dedicated outdoor space for reflection and prayer.

“This transformative gift will empower the next generation of educators through the Grillo Future Educators Fund and support student well-being and *cura personalis*—care for the whole person—with the Grillo Family Reflection Space,” said **Brian M. Oakes, ’99, MBA ’10**, vice president for advancement. “Elaine and Anthony Grillo are people of faith, character, and vision who continuously live their commitment to Jesuit education—including through their generous partnership and steadfast support of Loyola.”

The Grillo Future Educators Fund will cover the costs associated with certification exams and licensure fees, test preparation materials and courses, fingerprinting, and background check expenses required for employment in schools, as well as other essential career startup needs.

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The gift from Elaine and Anthony Grillo will empower the next generation of educators through the Grillo Future Educators Fund.



SAM LEVITAN

“We are deeply grateful to Anthony and Elaine Grillo for their extraordinary generosity and vision,” said **Afra Ahmed Hersi, Ph.D.**, dean of the School of Education. “The Grillo Future Educators Fund will have a transformative impact on our students by removing financial barriers that often stand in the way of becoming a teacher. Access to excellent preparation is essential to recruiting and retaining strong educators, and this gift helps ensure that more aspiring teachers can enter the profession fully supported and ready to champion student success in every classroom.”

The Grillo Family Reflection Space will be located outside Donnelly Science Center as part of the renovations and additions to the building.

Elaine and Anthony Grillo became a part of the Loyola community when they began serving on the Parents Council while their daughter, **Elizabeth Grillo Palazzi, ’08**, was a student. After Elizabeth graduated, she followed in her mother’s footsteps by becoming a teacher. Elizabeth has been a lead toddler teacher at Gladwyne Montessori School in Pennsylvania, where she is currently the Toddler Department coordinator. Elizabeth credits retired School of Education faculty members **Elena Rock, Ed.D.**, and **Cathy Castellan, Ph.D., M.A. ’96**, for helping her development as a teacher.

“Elizabeth wanted a Jesuit school, but one that was smaller and more intimate,” recalled Elaine Grillo. “We visited Loyola, and she loved the students and faculty that she met. She chose to go to Loyola, and we are ever so happy. She belonged there.”

Elaine continued her involvement with Loyola after her daughter’s graduation. When the University prepared to launch the School of

Education in 2009, she accepted an invitation to serve on the Board of Advisors. She was then invited to become a member of the University’s Board of Trustees, and she served as a trustee for eight years.

“It was a fabulous experience getting to know the professors and how well they live all their truths for the students,” shared Elaine, who remains involved and interested in the University under the leadership of **Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D.**, Loyola’s president. “Our desire to give this gift to Loyola really comes down to faith, hope, and love. We have a lot of faith in President Sawyer and the direction that we see the school going. There is a oneness even when you walk around campus that you don’t see in other schools. We hope this gift allows Loyola to continue to admit wonderful students.”

The Grillos endowed the School of Education’s first graduate fellowship to support student research and continue to be active members of the Loyola community, having participated in multiple Ignatian pilgrimages.

“We are sincerely grateful to Elaine and Anthony Grillo for their generous support of the Donnelly Science Center renovation,” shared **Bahram Rouhani, Ph.D.**, associate dean of natural and applied sciences. “The Grillo Family Reflection Space will offer a peaceful place for the Loyola community to reflect, pray, and reconnect. It enhances our campus and supports our mission to grow STEM and health programs rooted in *cura personalis*.”



RENDERING BY HORD COPLAN MACHT

Part of a gift from Elaine and Anthony Grillo will create the Donnelly Science Center’s new Grillo Family Reflection Space, a dedicated outdoor space for reflection and prayer.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Victoria Figueroa Roman, ’26

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, ’23

“Loyola has taught me that growth doesn’t happen in silence or the familiar, but when you take risks, listen actively, and embrace challenges with an open heart.”



Victoria Figueroa Roman, ’26, a marketing major from Abingdon, Maryland, wears many hats on campus.

Whether reviewing résumés at the Rizzo Career Center, celebrating culture within the Association of Latinx Students, or studying abroad in Belgium, Figueroa Roman’s Loyola story reflects her vast interests and embraces the *magis*—the more.

“Growing up with my dad in the military, I never had a concrete place to call home. When I walked onto the Evergreen campus, I knew I had made it to the place I was supposed to be all along,” Figueroa Roman reflected. “I wouldn’t be the student I am today if it wasn’t for the values and support from my family.”

Figueroa Roman is passionate about orchestrating memories for her peers within the Student Government Association (SGA). As senior class president, she coordinates celebrations for graduating Greyhounds, developing her leadership skills and building friendships along the way.

As a Seller Scholar, Figueroa Roman secured an internship with a Baltimore-based company, Los Hermanos Tequila, during her first-year accounting class. After impressing the CEO with her coursework, she was hired and encouraged to contribute to the business’s marketing strategy. Now, as she thinks about life after graduation, she aspires for a career grounded in supporting others.

LEADERSHIP IN THE AGE OF AI: NAVIGATING TIMES OF CHANGE AND UNCERTAINTY

JOHN MICHEL, PH.D., DISCUSSES WORKPLACE CHALLENGES AND THE STRATEGIES LEADERS NEED TO FACE THEM

BY ANDREW ALDRICH



As technology transforms job responsibilities and workplaces evolve, **John Michel, Ph.D.**, Busch Faculty Chair and an associate professor of management and organizations in the Sellinger School of Business and Management, offers insight into how leaders can navigate these challenges and grow their leadership skills. An organizational psychologist, Michel has appeared in *The Baltimore Banner* and *Baltimore Sun*, and on WYPR.

What are some challenges that organizations face today?

While change in organizations is constant, the nature of work today is shifting more rapidly than ever. Technological advancements—especially in AI and automation—are reshaping jobs and skills. At the same time, the rise of remote and hybrid work has disrupted traditional workplace structures, creating new challenges around communication, collaboration, and equity. Organizations are also navigating shifting employee expectations around flexibility, purpose, and well-being,

alongside heightened awareness of mental health. Social and political polarization adds further complexity. As these forces converge, they are transforming how, where, and why people work—requiring organizations to rethink not just processes and policies, but the experience of work itself.

What role do leaders play in successfully guiding their organizations through these challenges?

Leaders play a pivotal role in guiding their organizations through change. They are responsible for interpreting complex external trends and translating them into clear direction and meaningful action. In the face of uncertainty, effective leaders provide stability by setting priorities, clarifying expectations, and ensuring operational continuity. At the same time, they foster a supportive environment where employees feel valued, heard, and empowered. Leaders also cultivate adaptability by encouraging innovation, experimentation, and continuous learning.

What are some specific leadership strategies that can help organizations navigate these challenges?

Navigating complex workplace challenges requires leaders to draw on strategies for sustaining performance, supporting people, and driving adaptation.

- Task-oriented strategies can help to maintain clarity and operational excellence during disruptions. Leaders can set clear performance goals, monitor progress, align resources, and streamline processes to ensure efficiency and reliability.
- Relations-oriented strategies focus on building trust, morale, and engagement, which are particularly important amid growing employee stress, burnout, and polarization.

- Change-oriented strategies enable organizations to adapt, innovate, and remain competitive. Leaders must scan the external environment for emerging trends, encourage creative thinking, and articulate a compelling vision for the future.

What qualities must leaders cultivate to help employees be successful during periods of uncertainty?

During periods of uncertainty, leaders must help employees stay focused, resilient, and engaged. They need to be clear and decisive, providing direction and structure through well-defined goals and expectations—especially when routines are disrupted or priorities shift. At the same time, leaders must demonstrate empathy and emotional intelligence, creating a supportive environment where employees feel heard, valued, and safe to express concerns or take risks. Leaders must also be adaptable and forward-thinking, able to scan the environment, embrace change, and guide others through ambiguity with a sense of purpose and possibility.

How important is education to growing as a leader?

Effective leaders are not born. They develop over time through intentional education, leadership development, and coaching. Programs like Loyola's MBA—and specifically courses such as our Leading and Managing People at Work class—play a critical role in helping leaders build the skills necessary to lead in today's uncertain and fast-changing environment. **1**



Notable Thought Leaders

We're proudly sharing these comments from Loyola's expert thought leaders as reported in local, regional, and national media.



“Older sports fans like

the consistency of settling down every evening and watching their team play. The younger fans like to be able to watch their shows wherever and whenever.”

Marion Davidson, assistant teaching professor of forensic science, speaking with WBAL-TV

“Do we want to live in a world in which might makes right? Or do we want to live in a world that is based on rules and order? If we want to live in a rules-based world, then we can't allow for territorial gains acquired through oppression to become crystallized as new borders.”

Mary Kate Schneider, Ph.D., director of Global Studies and lecturer of political science, in an interview with WBFF



“Investment always comes with risk,

but a lot of people don't realize that so does keeping your cash in the bank, because you run the risk of missing out on opportunities.”

JP Krahel, Ph.D., professor of accounting, in an interview with WJZ



“Science and religion don't contradict one

another. They're really quite different. And that difference needs to be respected. It shows the range of human reason and the possible range of human knowledge.”

The Rev. John J. Conley, S.J., Bernard P. Knott Chair of Philosophy and Theology, in an interview with *The National Catholic Reporter* about the 100th anniversary of the Scopes-Monkey Trial

Notable Faces of Loyola

BRIAN M. OAKES, '99, MBA '10

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, '23

“GIVING IS ABOUT SUPPORTING PLACES THAT HAVE BEEN MEANINGFUL IN YOUR LIFE.”

ENERGIZED IN MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As an employee of Loyola for 20 years, **Brian Oakes** cannot remember a time he was not excited to come to work. As vice president for advancement, Oakes is committed to connecting alumni, fostering external partnerships, and growing philanthropic support to make a Loyola education possible for every student.

WHY LOYOLA

“I’m a look-for-signs type of guy.” A postcard about a job opening and a run-in with a classmate were all Oakes needed to want to return to Loyola, where he had made unforgettable memories. “Everyone at Loyola is working their hardest to create the intangible ‘special sauce.’ I feel fortunate to work at a place where the values align with how I’m trying to be as a person, husband, father, and leader.”



GIFTS THAT WILL KEEP ON GIVING

Oakes believes all gifts are transformative, and his favorites are those that are given with genuine love for the University. “Philanthropy impacts the trajectory of Loyola. If alumni reflect on their professors, friendships, and experiences and feel moved by those memories, they should consider honoring their *alma mater*.”

STEEPED IN SPIRIT

“I am eight years into drinking no coffee, but I wake up charged and ready to go. Spending time with alumni—and hearing their Loyola stories and their love and nostalgia for this place—gets me energized.”

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

“There is a renewed energy permeating the Evergreen campus. You see it everywhere—in the admission office, with our new nursing program, with our alumni engagement office, and with our president. Now, more than ever, is an incredible time to reconnect to the University.”

OLIVIA BUSH

Notable News

Leading in Literacy



Loyola’s M.Ed. in Literacy for Reading/Literacy Specialists program has been recognized by the International Literacy Association (ILA) for its outstanding preparation of literacy professionals and continuous efforts to transform lives through literacy. Loyola was rated “Distinguished” in all areas and standards and has been recommended to be considered for the “National Recognition with Distinction” designation, the highest honor ILA awards to advanced licensure programs.

Librarian Recognized as Community Builder



MALLORY WAREHAM, MLIS

Mallory Wareham, MLIS, access services librarian at Loyola/Notre Dame Library (LNDL), was recognized as a Community Builder in *Library Journal’s* 2025 Movers and Shakers list. The national honor recognizes Wareham’s work developing LNDL’s Fall Fest, an annual celebration of the new school year and all things reading. The event, which began in 2023, drew 300 students in its first year and 400 students in 2024.

Commitment to Sustainability

Loyola’s Level II arboretum accreditation has been recertified by ArbNet. The University has also been recognized by The Arbor Day Foundation as a Tree Campus Higher Education institution for the seventh year in a row. The Evergreen campus is an 81-acre arboretum featuring more than 2,200 trees that represent at least 124 varieties, including a 100-foot-tall European beech at the Fitness & Aquatic Center, which is listed as a state Champion Tree by TreeBaltimore.



Top Teacher and Mentor



THERESA E. DIDONATO, PH.D.

Theresa E. DiDonato, Ph.D., associate dean for the social sciences and graduate programs and professor of psychology, received the Society for Personality and Social Psychology’s national Undergraduate Teaching and Mentoring Award. The award recognizes excellence in teaching and mentoring among faculty, and nominees are evaluated on their innovation and recognition in new teaching methods, quality and diversity of mentoring, and excellence in collaboration. She was recognized at the annual convention in Denver in February.

Fantastic Fulbrights

Three members of Loyola’s Class of 2025 were awarded prestigious Fulbright Awards to spend one year abroad. **Patrick Boyle**, **Maeve Martineau**, and **Evy Ryan** are spending the 2025-26 academic year as English teaching assistants in Spain, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic, respectively. “This achievement highlights the academic excellence of our talented students and dedicated faculty and demonstrates how committed Loyola is to helping our students achieve success at Loyola—and after graduation,” said **Cheryl Moore-Thomas, Ph.D.**, provost and senior vice president.

Sellinger to Honor MCB Real Estate Leader

The Sellinger School of Business and Management will honor **P. David Bramble**, co-founder and managing partner of MCB Real Estate, as the 2025 Business Leader of the Year on Tuesday, Nov. 4. “David Bramble is a visionary community builder who has recognized the power of real estate development to transform not just neighborhoods,



P. DAVID BRAMBLE

but the lives of those who live, work, and visit those neighborhoods. He is deeply committed to leveraging diverse perspectives to create truly inclusive environments,” said **Mary Ann Scully, MBA '79**, dean of Loyola’s Sellinger School.

Rankings Roundup

Loyola’s graduate programs earned several notable rankings from *U.S. News & World Report* in its annual list of Best Graduate Schools, showcasing the University’s strong performance across multiple fields.

The Sellinger School of Business and Management tied for No. 82 of 337 schools eligible on its list of **Best Business Schools**, moving up 33 spots.

The **Professional’s MBA**, a part-time, evening program designed for working professionals, **tied for No. 68 of 241 schools** eligible in the nation, moving up 19 spots from last year’s rank.

Loyola was ranked **No. 71 (tied) out of 303 Social Sciences and Humanities Doctoral Programs in Psychology**, rising 51 spots from last year.

The **doctoral program in clinical psychology (Psy.D.)** was ranked **No. 91 (tied)** among 251 clinical psychology programs.

Loyola was recognized 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**.

CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

GUIDING SCHOLARS TOWARD GLOBAL PURPOSE

WITH CARE, STRUCTURE, AND MENTORSHIP, TERRE RYAN, PH.D., HELPS LOYOLA STUDENTS SECURE PRESTIGIOUS FELLOWSHIPS—AND DISCOVER THEIR POTENTIAL ALONG THE WAY

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN PEPOSE, '07

When Lily Tiger, '24, first received emails from Loyola's National Fellowships Office, she didn't give them much thought. The messages encouraged students to apply for prestigious fellowships like the Fulbright U.S. Student Program—something Tiger assumed was out of reach.

"Why would I spend six months on something with no guarantee?" she thought. But the idea stuck. "I finally emailed Terre and said, 'I know I'm late, but I'm interested.'"

"Terre" is Terre Ryan, Ph.D., director of Loyola's National Fellowships Office and an associate professor of writing. Since 2021, she's helped students navigate the competitive application process for nationally and internationally funded programs like Fulbright—mentoring them through what often becomes a defining college experience.

Tiger's email launched a mentorship that led her to

spend a year in 2024-25 teaching in Greece through Fulbright's English Teaching Assistant Program. An English language and literature major, Tiger had studied abroad in Greece and dreamed of returning.

"Terre helped me put together an application that was authentic," she said. "Going through the process helped me grow so much as a writer and a person."

Tiger's story is one of many shaped by Ryan's purposeful approach. Ryan, who came to Loyola in 2011, incorporates

Jesuit principles into every advising session. Her work has contributed to Loyola's recognition among the six Top Producing Institutions for Fulbright U.S. Students in the Master's classification.

"I bring in *cura personalis*, care for the whole person; *eloquentia perfecta*, helping students express themselves effectively; and *magis*, which I interpret as striving for the greater good and pushing oneself harder to do better," Ryan explained. "Loyola's values are about helping students understand their place in the world and their responsibilities as future leaders. That's all tied to the work I do in this office."

That approach resonated with Patrick Boyle, '25. A double major in leadership and organizational effectiveness and Spanish who studied abroad in Spain, he returned

to Spain this fall as a Fulbright English teaching assistant.

"I went to one of Dr. Ryan's webinars out of curiosity and left thinking, 'This is what I want to do,'" he remembered.

From there, the process was rigorous, complete with strict deadlines and regular one-on-one meetings. "It's almost like taking a class," Boyle said. "Dr. Ryan helps you tailor your story to Fulbright's goals while keeping it authentic."

That structure is intentional. Ryan notes that beyond GPA, programs like Fulbright look for leadership, service, and care for the community. "A lot of

"Terre helped me put together an application that was authentic. Going through the process helped me grow so much as a writer and a person." Their relationship didn't end there. "I trusted her completely. When I was writing my senior undergraduate thesis, I asked her to be on my committee. She's become a mentor to me."

Lily Tiger, '24

students are modest. They worry they'll sound like they're bragging," she said. "But they've done amazing things—they just need help seeing that."

Even when students don't win, the process can be worthwhile and lead to other opportunities.

"Things often work out in unexpected ways," Ryan said. "Just completing a fellowship application is an achievement. It helps students improve their writing and articulate their future goals."

For Tiger—now pursuing a career as an English teacher—her Fulbright year deepened her passion for education and

cultural exchange. She recalls bridging worlds for her students, like explaining mail-in voting during a U.S. election and leading a unit on book banning in American schools.

"These students become citizen diplomats," Ryan noted. "They play an important role in strengthening the relationship between our countries through the friendships and networks they establish."

As Boyle begins his year abroad, he's excited to show his students the connections that language learning can create. "It can help you form friendships

and lay down roots in another country," he said. "I want students to see that learning English isn't just for school; it can open doors in their careers, relationships, and lives."

loyola.edu/go/fellowship-winners

Read about additional Loyola national award recipients.



Loyola has been recognized as a top Fulbright-producing institution.



TERRE RYAN, PH.D.



LILY TIGER, '24



PATRICK BOYLE, '25



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



RECOGNITION

MOVING FORWARD WITH BASKETBALL SUPERSTAR

MBA STUDENT LEX THERIEN, '25, RETURNS TO THE COURT AFTER BACK INJURY

BY PATRICK STEVENS

Lex Therien, '25, always had an independent streak, so she was determined not to follow her two older sisters into Loyola's women's basketball program.

The plan instead was to head to Boston University, another Patriot League institution. Then the Terriers had a coaching change late in her senior year of high school, and she was left uncertain about where she would attend college.

When Therien reached out to Loyola coach **Danielle O'Banion**—herself just a few weeks into the job with the Greyhounds—she found a program happy to have her. But she still had to face some teasing from her sisters, **Isabella, '21**, and **Ava, '22, M.A. '23, MBA '24**, after becoming a Greyhound.

As much of a whirlwind as her process leading to the Evergreen campus was—she said it lasted about 20 minutes—it turned out to be one of the most impactful in the history of Loyola's program. She won the Patriot League's Rookie of the Year award in 2021-22, was a second team all-conference selection as a first-year and sophomore, and earned a first-team nod in 2023-24.

Now an MBA student who graduated with a degree in writing in the spring, Therien heads into her fifth year with 1,356 points (seventh all-time at Loyola) and 1,001 rebounds (fifth).

Therien is one of two Greyhounds with 1,300 points and 1,000 rebounds. The other is **Patty Stoffey Edelman, '96**, the program's all-time leading scorer and fourth-leading rebounder entering 2025-26.

"The way she plays is the way she lives her life," O'Banion said. "She's a beautiful, bold personality, and she plays basketball that way. The way she pursues the basketball, whether there's one person or four other people around her—the fact is she won't be denied. She's a fierce competitor. She holds herself to a high standard. Those are qualities that have helped transform our locker room."

O'Banion took over a program that was winless in the truncated 2020-21 pandemic season. With Therien as a foundational piece, the Greyhounds earned five victories in 2021-22 and 10 the following year. Loyola went 16-15 in 2023-24 and seemed on the cusp of a program breakout in Therien's senior year.

However, Therien had dealt with back injuries since her first year at Loyola, managing them through a variety of treatments. But after the Greyhounds' third game last year, she realized she couldn't lift her foot.

"I thought 'I need to get help,'" Therien said. "I walked back to my car and thought 'I've got to tell somebody.' I ended up telling my athletic trainer, 'I think it's time; I need to get this surgery.'"

O'Banion was supportive of the decision, but also challenged her to find a way to contribute. Loyola struggled

with a team-wide spate of injuries last season, and Therien continued one of her traditions of writing an inspirational message on the dry erase board in the locker room about a half-hour before every game. For road games she couldn't attend, she passed the message on to O'Banion. "I needed to still support and cheer as loud as I could on the sideline and let them know they're capable."

Because she played in so few games, Therien retained her final season of eligibility and will be back for another shot at what she describes as a "little revenge tour."

"It just makes me fired up for this year," said Therien, who hopes to play overseas for a couple of years or work in sales after college. "I know I have a lot to get done and a lot of work to put in. I have big goals and aspirations for this season for myself and the team. Battling through this injury has made me realize how much I do love basketball and how much it's going to mean to me when I step on the court again for the first time."

Therien's ability to navigate her extended time off the floor also reinforced to O'Banion the 6-foot-1 forward's growth during her time at Loyola.

"It has obviously been fantastic to watch Lex grow on the court, but I'd also say watching her mature from an educational standpoint, from a worldview standpoint, has been equally rewarding," O'Banion said. "I credit that to our *cura personalis* philosophy here. She's taken full advantage of her Loyola educational opportunities. It's been fun to watch her grow into an informed, compassionate young woman."

Perhaps most impressive was Therien's decision to remain at Loyola, particularly in an era when student-athletes transfer at a higher frequency than before. She and O'Banion had conversations about her plans after each of her seasons.

And while the thought of transferring crossed her mind, Therien knows the school she didn't plan to attend as a high schooler is the only place she wants to be.

"I might not leave a legacy [elsewhere] that I could leave at Loyola, especially when I know this year we could do something really special," she said. **L**



LARRY FRENCH

Men's Basketball to Open Season Downtown at CFG Bank Arena

Loyola men's basketball begins its 2025-2026 season in downtown Baltimore as part of the Hall of Fame Series at CFG Bank Arena.

The Greyhounds face the Towson Tigers on Monday, Nov. 3, as part of a doubleheader featuring four local teams. The Maryland Terps will take on the Coppin State Eagles in the other contest.

CFG Bank Arena, formerly known as both the Baltimore Civic Center and the Baltimore Arena, reopened in February 2023 following an extensive renovation. This year's game will be Loyola's 14th all-time in the venue, dating back to a 1965 contest against Mount St. Mary's. The last time the Greyhounds played in the downtown arena was on Dec. 9, 1995, against Notre Dame.

Patrick Hayburn, '25, Named Patriot League Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Patrick Hayburn, '25, was named the 2025 Patriot League Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year, an award that is given to the top student-athlete representing all men's sports in the conference.

A member of the men's swimming and diving team, Hayburn graduated with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while receiving his Bachelor of Business Administration with a double major in finance and information systems and data analytics. Hayburn's honor marks the seventh Patriot

League Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award for a Greyhounds student-athlete since Loyola joined the conference in 2013-14.

Hayburn was a three-time All-Patriot League and Academic All-Patriot League honoree, garnering the sport's Scholar-Athlete of the Year as a senior. He was Loyola's top point-scorer at the 2025 Patriot League Swimming & Diving Championships with 75, helping the Greyhounds to a third-place finish overall.

Loyola Graduate Qualifies for His First PGA Tour Event

Evan Brown, '21, made his PGA Tour debut at The Rocket Classic in Detroit after tying for first at the tournament's qualifying event in June. The former All-American became the second Loyola golfer—joining **Brandon Berry, '21, MBA '22**—and just the third golfer in Patriot League history to play in a PGA Tour event.

Brown has played on the PGA Tour Americas since 2022. At Loyola, he earned PING All-America Honorable Mention recognition in 2021, becoming the first Greyhounds player to receive that honor in program history. He was a three-time PING/GCAA All-Region player and a two-time All-Patriot League First Team honoree following a pair of top-five finishes at the Patriot League Championships during his career.

Brown also earned Academic All-Patriot League and Srixon/Cleveland GCAA All-America Scholar recognition as a senior in 2021, when he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Loyola.



In a February 2019 game, Pat Spencer, '19, revealed his athleticism and creativity in a remarkable play against Rutgers, which foreshadowed his eventual move to professional basketball.

DOUBLE FEATURE

Former Greyhounds lacrosse standout Pat Spencer, '19, now laces up NBA shoes

BY RYAN EIGENBRODE

Get the ball to No. 7. The most efficient—and effective—way for Greyhounds men's lacrosse to score from 2016-19 was for the ball to go through the stick of **Pat Spencer, '19**.

Head Coach **Charley Toomey, '90**, saw that opportunity develop during a February 2019 game at Rutgers. But it was the finish of the play that set it apart from other similar plays—and was full of foreshadowing.

When No. 7 caught a pass from **Alex Johnson, '20**, on the left side of the field, he sprinted to the goal with his stick in his left hand, drew contact from a defender, and leapt across the crease. He moved the stick to his right hand and—while in the air—shot around the Scarlet Knights goalkeeper.

That was no typical lacrosse shot. It was a basketball move, akin to Michael Jordan switching hands midair to score in the 1991 NBA Playoffs.

"It was an 'above the rim' play," Toomey said. "It was his athleticism combined with his creativity."

Athleticism on Display

Multiple photographers captured that moment, and the Loyola Men's Lacrosse Instagram account received record traffic.

"On a weekly basis for 15 weeks, four years in a row, Pat was capturing the minds of young lacrosse players with a creativity—and as we've come to know even more acutely—athleticism that nobody else has put on display before or since," said another Loyola graduate, **Terry Foy, '07**, now the CEO of *Inside Lacrosse*.

The stage was set. Spencer, who was already in the spotlight, was headed for a bright future—and who knew where his athleticism and adaptability would take him. Today, the former lacrosse All-American goes nose-to-nose with some of the NBA's biggest names.

But not too long ago, getting to the NBA seemed far-fetched for Spencer. No lacrosse player had been at his level and then transitioned successfully to one of the four major professional sports. But

perhaps no one had the confidence that Spencer possesses.

"Some of it might be irrational confidence," Spencer said. "I don't think anyone thought going from college lacrosse to the NBA would be a move anyone would make, but I've always had that belief in myself."

Where the Story Starts

Back in high school at nearby Boys' Latin School of Maryland, Spencer was a 5-foot-4, 120-pound high school student cut from teams.

An undersized player at the time, Spencer still drew attention from college lacrosse. He focused on Loyola, where he committed before his junior year of high school.

A growth spurt ensued, giving him almost a foot of height and 85 pounds of muscle for a 6-foot-3, 205-pound frame. Spencer became one of the most highly-rated recruits in the nation as a member of the high school Class of 2015. The basketball desire still burned, but he held solid in his commitment to the Greyhounds and head coach—and fellow Boys' Latin grad—Toomey.

"I had some second thoughts, but I thought I owed it to Loyola to see it through given they were one of just a couple schools who took a chance on me," Spencer said. "I didn't have the size, but I always felt like I had the skill growing up. I leaned on my IQ, and that was something I could hang my hat on. I knew I could compete at a high level at Loyola."

And he did. A game-changing player for Toomey and the Greyhounds, Spencer became the most decorated student-athlete in school history.

A Legend Is Born

He finished his first regular season as Patriot League Rookie and Offensive Player of the Year—the first player to win both in conference history. It was in the postseason, however, that his legend grew.

He led Loyola to the Patriot League Championship and later to a bid to

“LOYOLA IS THE ROOT OF WHO I AM. I WOULDN’T HAVE GONE TO LOYOLA IF NOT FOR THE LOYALTY AND FAMILY.”

Pat Spencer, '19

Championship Weekend and the NCAA Semifinals; he finished the season with 37 goals and 52 assists, tying the school single-season record with 89 points. He picked up Second-Team All-America honors, and his star shot to the top of the lacrosse world.

He grew close to his teammates and threw himself into lacrosse.

Even though he ended the year as arguably the best player in the sport, he found himself still thinking of basketball.

“Man, I had the itch so badly. I just missed it,” Spencer said of the spring and summer of 2016. “I really thought it through that year, and I put it on the back burner. The fifth year was going to be the play, and I was locked in [to lacrosse].”

Spencer’s dedication to Loyola lacrosse for the next three years was not great news for the rest of the NCAA. His play was dominant and improved every year

as he set Loyola, Patriot League, and NCAA records, took home First-Team All-America honors two years in a row, and was four-time Patriot League Offensive Player of the Year. As a finance major, he secured a spot on the Dean’s List and was a member of the Patriot League Academic Honor Roll, and Loyola honored him with the John Mohler Award as the school’s top male, senior student-athlete.

Journey to the NBA

As much as he excelled at lacrosse, Spencer was eager to take his skills and talents to basketball. After he graduated from Loyola with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance, he accepted a basketball scholarship to play for the Northwestern

Wildcats while he pursued a graduate degree in communication studies.

When the pandemic derailed his plans to play for the NBA G-League, he took the year to sharpen his game and body. Then he signed with the Hamburg Towers of Germany’s Basketball Bundesliga for five games near the end of the 2021 season.

He was a professional basketball player now, but Spencer wasn’t satisfied. His goal was the NBA, and he continued to work toward getting that taste of “The League.”

Spencer played with the Washington Wizards’ and Golden State Warriors’ G-League affiliates, and on Feb. 25, 2024, the goal came to fruition. He checked in to his first NBA game during the fourth quarter of a Golden State game against the Denver Nuggets, a team then coached by another Loyola graduate, **Michael Malone, '94**.

He did not score in that game, but he remained in the Warriors’ plans, and on March 20, 2024, he scored his first NBA points in a game against the Memphis Grizzlies.

“The guy’s a gamer; he’s one of the greatest lacrosse players of all time, so he’s a competitor,” said Warriors Head Coach Steve Kerr during the 2024-2025 season. “He’s an athlete. He has worked his tail off to get to this point.”

“Incredible teammate and he’s a damn good player,” Kerr added. “I mean, he just shoots it well, he passes it well, and you see the movement and the flow when he’s on the floor.”

NBA Hounds Abound

Spencer is just part of a group of Greyhounds who are patrolling NBA courts. Malone was the head coach of the Nuggets for 10 years, winning the 2023 NBA Title, after leading the Sacramento Kings for two seasons. **Santi Aldama**, a first-round

Pat Spencer, '19, stays laser-focused on the basketball game: “I think competitively, I am so focused on what I am doing. You’re in a game, and all you’re thinking about is winning a game or effecting the next play.”

NOAH GRAHAM/ NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES

draft pick in 2021 who played for the Greyhounds from 2019-21, will start his fifth year with the Grizzlies in 2025-26.

Spencer’s younger brother, **Cam**, who was Aldama’s teammate at Loyola and an All-Patriot League guard from 2019-22, is also a member of the Grizzlies now after being picked in the 2024 second round.

The elder Spencer played in 39 regular-season games for Golden State in 2024-25 and eight in the playoffs. He has grinded in practice with future Hall of Famers Steph Curry, Draymond Green, and Jimmy Butler, and bumped in games against NBA all-time leading scorer LeBron James.

Yet, with all of the work he’s put in, it has not fully sunk in.

“I still don’t appreciate that stuff right now. I think competitively, I am so focused on what I am doing. You’re in a game, and all you’re thinking about is winning a game or effecting the next play.”

One to Watch

Toohey sees the parallels to Spencer’s time at Loyola and journey to an NBA career in the way he plays both sports.

“He just made people better around him; that’s who he is in basketball, and it’s who he was as a Loyola player. He was more excited about the assist than he was about scoring the goal himself.”

Former lacrosse teammates and coaches visit Spencer for games, and the lacrosse world follows the former No. 7—now No. 61 for the Warriors—closely.

“The thing that is most amazing about it is the courage to continue to set a goal and then another goal,” Foy said. “Every lacrosse fan should be proud of the fact that its biggest star for a four-year window has shown himself to be capable of competing on an even higher athletic plane.”

The journey from the Spencer family driveway in Davidsonville, Maryland, to the Ridley Athletic Complex and NBA courts nationwide was not quick or easy, but Loyola played a significant part.

“Loyola is the root of who I am. I wouldn’t have gone to Loyola if not for the loyalty and family. Loyola matched exactly what I was looking for.”



NOAH GRAHAM/NBAE VIA GETTY IMAGES



LARRY FRENCH



LARRY FRENCH

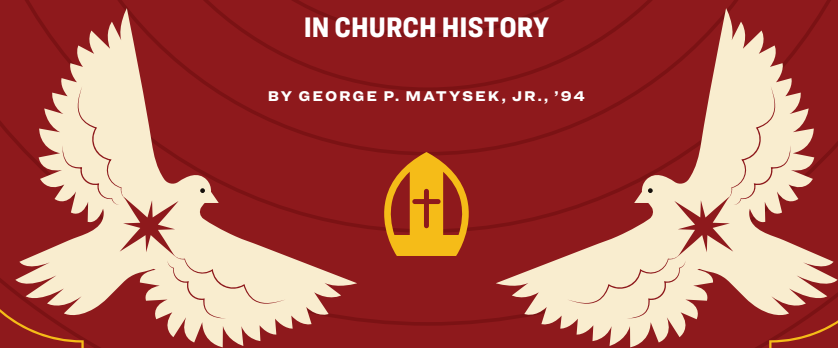
Above: The journey from the Spencer driveway in Davidsonville, Maryland, to the Ridley Athletic Complex and NBA courts nationwide was not quick or easy, but Loyola played a significant part. He has since grinded in practice with future Hall of Famers Steph Curry (pictured), Draymond Green, and Jimmy Butler.

Left: Pat Spencer, '19, was the first Loyola player to win the 2019 Tewaaron Award, which is considered the most prestigious award in college lacrosse.

Pope Leo XIV inspires optimism amid change

LOYOLA THOUGHT
LEADERS OFFER INSIGHT
INTO A NEW CHAPTER
IN CHURCH HISTORY

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK, JR., '94





As the College of Cardinals met in the Sistine Chapel this spring to elect a successor to Pope Francis, **Emily Kane, '14**, director of campus ministry, sensed unease among many of her students.

"I think we were feeling the loss [of Francis] still so deeply—and I was definitely absorbing my students' nerves," said Kane. "There was a lot of fear around what this next pope might bring."

For Kane, the uncertainty included concerns about inclusion in the Church and the future of the Church's commitment to social justice and the pursuit of global peace—hallmarks of Pope Francis' leadership that shaped her own ministry.

But when French Cardinal Dominique Mamberti announced to the world May 8 that Cardinal Robert F. Prevost had been elected pope and that he was taking the name Leo XIV, Kane's concerns eased.

By adopting the name of Leo XIII, Pope Leo XIV signaled his commitment to the earlier pope's vision of a Church responsive to the social and economic challenges of its era. Pope Leo XIII was the author of *Rerum Novarum*, the groundbreaking encyclical written in 1891 that laid the foundation for modern Catholic social teaching and addressed the dignity and rights of workers.

"The first thing I told my students when I heard his name is, 'We're good!'" Kane remembered with a laugh.

Forging a Path

Many in the Loyola community are hopeful Pope Leo XIV will build on the legacies of Francis, Leo XIII, and others, while forging a path shaped by his own experiences and perspective.

Listening to Pope Leo's first address after his election, **Milton Javier Bravo, Ph.D.**, vice president for mission and identity, was filled with great hope.

"He spoke to the Diocese of Rome and said, 'Let's be welcoming to all,'" said



"He spoke to the Diocese of Rome and said, 'Let's be welcoming to all.' What it does to the American church will still be determined in the years to come, but what a joy—and what a surprise to have an American pope."

Milton Javier Bravo, Ph.D.

Bravo. "What it does to the American church will still be determined in the years to come, but what a joy—and what a surprise to have an American pope."

The **Rev. Steve Spahn, S.J.**, assistant teaching professor of theology and assistant to the director of mission integration at Loyola, said it was telling that in his first address to cardinals as leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Leo XIV gave the "most full-throated endorsement of Vatican II possible."

Equally notable, Fr. Spahn said, was the new pope's embrace of Pope Francis' joyful approach to evangelization in his leadership.

"That, in my mind, says it all," Fr. Spahn said.

Yet stylistic differences are already emerging. Memorably, Pope Leo appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica wearing the traditional red mozzetta—a cape Pope Francis had eschewed in favor of simpler white vestments.

"Frankly, I'm grateful for Pope Leo's obvious preference for the more traditional trappings of the papacy," Fr. Spahn said. "I think it will go a long way toward building goodwill and trust with more traditional Catholics."

Firsts for the Papacy

Federick "Fritz" Bauerschmidt, Ph.D., professor of theology, highlighted the historic nature of the election. The Church now has its first U.S.-born pope, its first Augustinian pope—and its first pope who

Many in the Loyola community are watching to see how Pope Leo XIV will build on the legacies of Popes Francis, Leo XIII, and others, while forging a path shaped by his own experiences and perspective.



ALESSIA PERDOMENICO

had a personal Twitter account before taking the Chair of St. Peter.

"He has spent a lot of his life in the digital world," said Bauerschmidt, who is also a deacon in the Archdiocese of Baltimore. "I think he has maybe more of an intuitive feel—both for the promises and the dangers of that digital world."

Only a few days into his papacy, Pope Leo was already warning of possible dangers posed by AI—insisting that artificial intelligence should be a tool, not a replacement for human intelligence.

"Just as the Industrial Revolution during the time of Leo XIII brought a lot of benefits, but also a lot of social disruption, I think the AI revolution is going to have a similar effect," Bauerschmidt said. "Many jobs, including high-paying jobs like computer programmers, are going to be vanishing. Pope Leo is very astute to see this as a really pressing issue for the Church to be thinking about."

Even as Pope Leo XIV addresses modern

challenges such as artificial intelligence with a strong sense of direction, his approach to leadership differs from that of his predecessor.

Pope Leo XIV appears more deliberate and cautious in his public statements, while Francis was known for spontaneous, sometimes controversial remarks that generated intense reactions both positive and negative.

Drawing on a friend's observation, Bauerschmidt compared the current papal transition to Pope Paul VI following Pope John XXIII during the Second Vatican Council era.

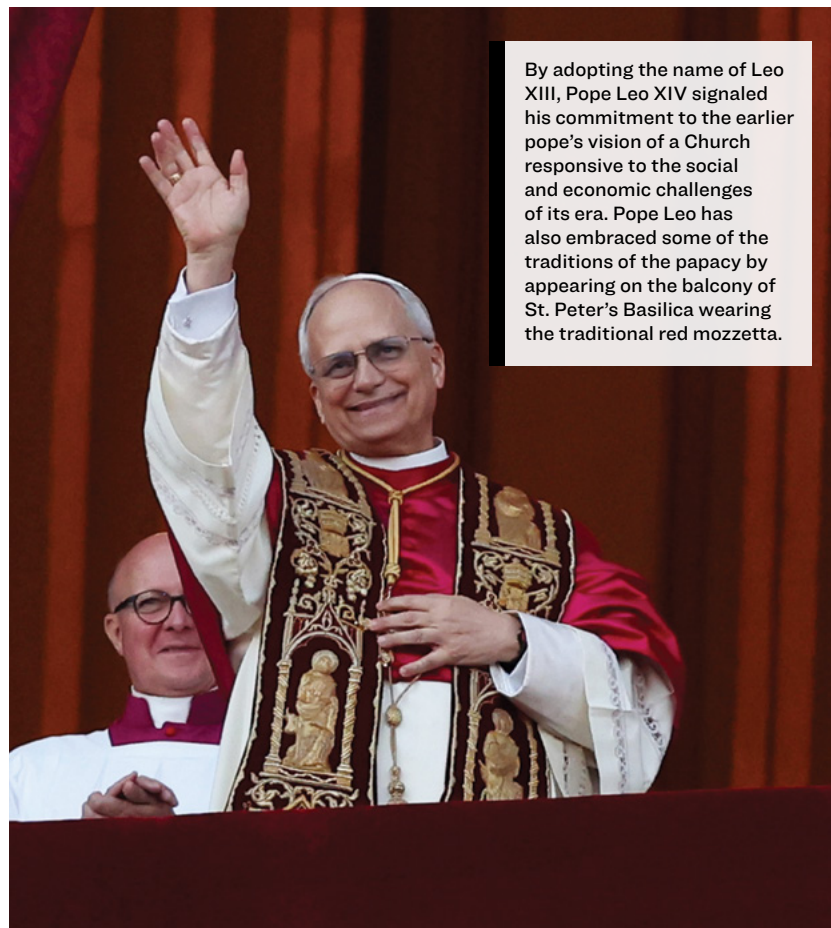
"John was good at starting the reforms, but you needed someone like Paul VI to bring the council to a successful conclusion—someone who was a bit more cautious and more attentive to the details," Bauerschmidt said.

He hopes Pope Leo XIV can serve as a unifying figure for both the Church and a divided world.



"People who have more exposure to the world tend to be more sympathetic to it. I think that his experience of not just visiting but really living amongst the people in various parts of the world is absolutely going to shape his papacy."

Mary Kate Schneider, Ph.D.



By adopting the name of Leo XIII, Pope Leo XIV signaled his commitment to the earlier pope's vision of a Church responsive to the social and economic challenges of its era. Pope Leo has also embraced some of the traditions of the papacy by appearing on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica wearing the traditional red mozzetta.

MARCO IACOBUCCI/EPP

A Call for Peace

Mary Kate Schneider, Ph.D., Loyola's director of Global Studies and associate teaching professor of political science, said it is exciting that on his very first day as pontiff, the new pope spoke of peace.

"He's quite the opposite of bellicose," Schneider said. "I think he has the ability and certainly the power to influence public opinion. There are over a billion Catholics in the world—and if the message from the Vatican is that of peace, then I

think you have a lot of people who want to listen to that."

Some have noted that Pope Leo may be the most international pope in the more than 2,000-year history of the Church. Born in Chicago, he knows the Western world well. But he also served as a missionary to Peru, the global leader of his Augustinian religious order, bishop of the Peruvian Diocese of Chiclayo, and the man selected by Pope Francis to help pick bishops around the world.

"People who have more exposure to the world tend to be more sympathetic to it,"



"I hope he speaks on those issues that matter to youth. Then he might help them to see the Church as a living, breathing body that they should be a part of—that they should help continue into the next chapter."

Laura McCormack, '14, Associate Director for Liturgy and Music



"Frankly, I'm grateful for Pope Leo's obvious preference for the more traditional trappings of the papacy. I think it will go a long way toward building goodwill and trust with more traditional Catholics."

Rev. Steve Spahn, S.J.

Schneider said. "I think that his experience of not just visiting but really living amongst the people in various parts of the world is absolutely going to shape his papacy."

That global voice has already spoken out for an end to war. The new pope has called for a ceasefire in Gaza and has shown a willingness to help broker peace in Ukraine.

"Seeing him speak so clearly and openly about the bombing of the Catholic church in Gaza was really wonderful and what I hope to see from a pope," Kane said. "I appreciate that continuation of not hiding the message and the teaching and the wisdom of the Catholic Church."

A Friend and Advocate

That clarity of voice reflects a deeper concern for the marginalized—one that takes on added meaning given a discovery made shortly after his election.

The **Rev. Gregory Chisholm, S.J.**, superior of the Baltimore Jesuit community, noted that a genealogist discovered the new pope has Black Creole ancestry. His Creole ancestors, a historically marginalized group in New Orleans, had relocated and "passed" as white, a survival strategy common during a strictly segregated era. It's not known whether the pope previously knew of his Creole roots.

Quite independent of whatever his origins are, Pope Leo XIV has consistently been a vocal advocate for the marginalized in South America, demonstrating his

commitment to supporting those enduring severe economic or political hardship, Fr. Chisholm said.

"They always seem to have a friend in the person of Robert Prevost," he said.

An Invitation to Youth

Looking to the future, **Laura McCormack, '14**, Loyola's associate director of liturgy and music, said she hopes Pope Leo will "speak in the language of the young."

"I hope he speaks on those issues that matter to youth. Then he might help them to see the Church as a living, breathing body that they should be a part of—that they should help continue into the next chapter." 🗨️



loyola.edu/go/pilgrimage-to-rome

Read about the Loyola pilgrims who traveled to Rome for the 2025 Jubilee and audience with Pope Leo XIV.



A Jesuit Heart

Members of the Loyola community reflect on Pope Francis' legacy

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK, JR., '94

As Pope Francis' health visibly declined in his final months, the **Rev. Thomas O'Donnell** regularly joined hundreds in St. Peter's Square for a nightly rosary.

"It was a reminder of the universality of the Church, and that Rome is filled with Italians and non-Italians from all over the world who are there to support the Holy Father. They gather around him in moments of happiness and victory—and also in moments of difficulty and illness," remembered Fr. O'Donnell, a 2015 Loyola graduate.

Fr. O'Donnell first came to Rome to study abroad as a Loyola student, in part, because of the moment when Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio emerged on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica as Pope Francis. He watched that historic moment with roommates in Loyola's Campion Tower.

Later, as a seminarian who was studying for the Archdiocese of Baltimore at the Pontifical North American College, the Maryland native spent an additional four years there, seeing the Jesuit pope many times and once shaking his hand.

"He challenged us to always ask, 'Am I really pushing myself to stand at the margins of the Church and see what it looks like at those edges?'" said Fr. O'Donnell, a double major in English literature and theology.

The **Rev. Steve Spahn, S.J.**, assistant teaching professor of theology and assistant to the director of mission integration at Loyola, said that approach reflected the Jesuit founder's belief that renewal begins not with power, but with presence.

"St. Ignatius taught that if people are leaving the Church, then it would behoove us to be better priests, better preachers, better bishops, and better Christians," Fr. Spahn said.

He added that Pope Francis embodied the Jesuits' Spanish name—"Companions of Jesus"—especially in his outreach to those who often feel marginalized. "If you understand



Photo taken by Emily Griffin, '14, while studying abroad in Rome.

yourself as moving in the world at Christ's side—as his companion—then, of course, you want to be at everyone's side."

While critics sometimes faulted Francis for lacking clarity, Fr. Spahn saw pastoral sensibility. In cases such as divorced and remarried Catholics longing to receive the Eucharist, for example, the Holy Father allowed for the possibility of receiving the sacrament in certain situations. He recognized life's complexity, Fr. Spahn said.

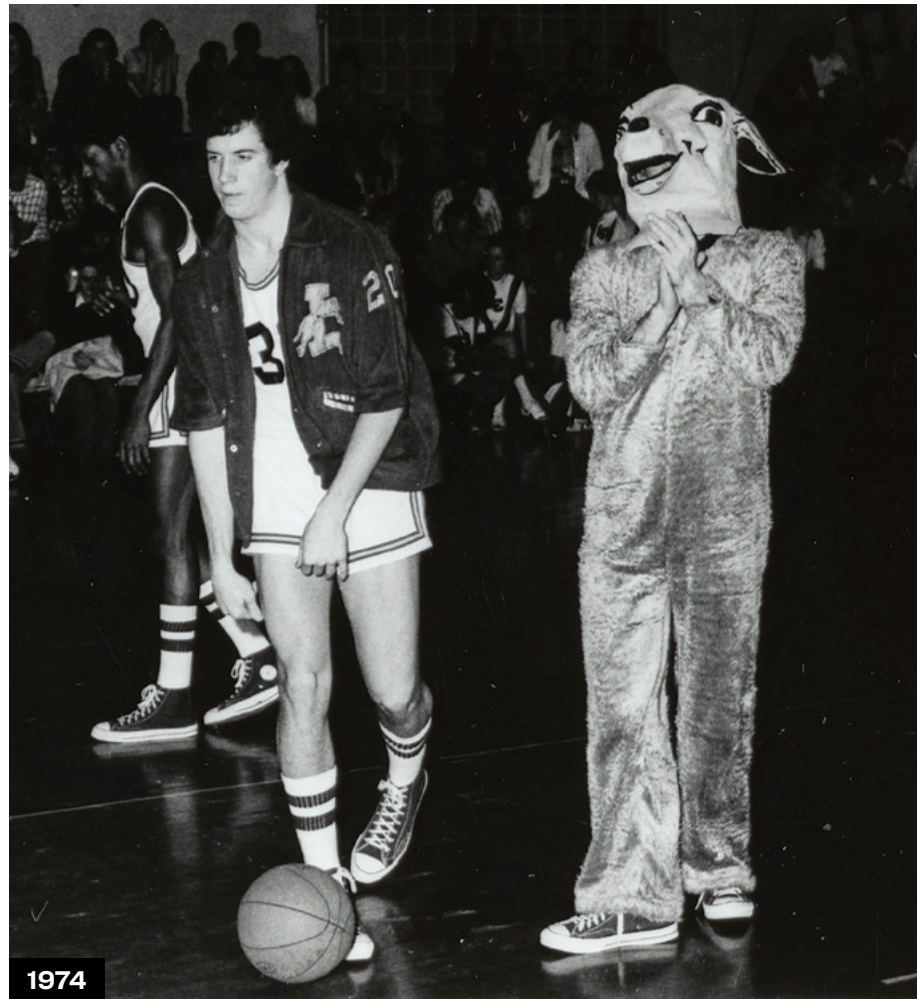
"Early on, Pope Francis used that image of the Church as a field hospital," Fr. Spahn said. "If someone's bleeding out on the tarmac, you're not worried about their blood pressure or their cholesterol levels or their bursitis. You get to the wound."

On Easter Sunday, the day before Pope Francis died, Fr. O'Donnell stood just a few feet away when the Holy Father rode by in his popemobile. A deacon at the time, he served at one of the nine "novendiali" Masses of mourning for the pope.

"My whole priesthood will be marked by his continuing invitation to live in poverty as much as I can," he said.

The **Rev. Gregory Chisholm, S.J.**, superior of the Baltimore Jesuit community, participated in an August pilgrimage of about 30 Loyola community members to Rome, where he prayed for his Jesuit brothers at Pope Francis' tomb.

"Pope Francis took a special interest in those who are on the margins of our economic, political, ethnic, and racial divide," Fr. Chisholm said. "We are fortunate that he is being followed by Pope Leo—a man who takes a very similar interest."



1974



1982



1994



1999



2003



2023

VINTAGE

1927 IGGY'S ORIGIN STORY

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

The greyhound has the largest heart of any dog. Anyone who attends a game on Evergreen campus will see how this describes the passion and loyalty of Greyhounds fans.

But before there was **Iggy**, there were (unofficially) “The Loyolas,” “The Jesuits,” and “The Green and Grey.” That’s because without a mascot, sportswriters had to get creative coming up with a variety of nicknames for Loyola’s teams at the time.

By fall 1927, Loyola students were ready for an official mascot. Proposals included the parrot, parakeet, and grey squirrel. The greyhound was suggested for its agility, speed, loyalty, and intelligence.

It was close, but in the end, the Greyhound defeated the grey squirrel in a student vote. Since then, the Greyhounds mascot has evolved over the years.

“In more recent years [likely starting in 1958], Loyola’s totem has been represented by a human-sized costume. There is on the mask... just the hint of a knowing, insouciant smile—a true representation of Loyola’s continuing spirit,” wrote Loyola’s historian at the time, **Nicholas Varga, Ph.D.**

Just about a decade ago, the Greyhound mascot was named Iggy, a moniker derived from St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Today, Iggy bolsters Loyola’s electrifying fan experience as he poses for selfies with fans and catapults T-shirts. Catch up with him at a game or look for him on social media, where you never know what he’ll be doing—whether he’s dancing an Irish jig or treating a Loyola shuttle like his own gift-bearing sleigh.

[instagram.com/reel/DHT1z-Zuo4a/](https://www.instagram.com/reel/DHT1z-Zuo4a/)

Look for Iggy on Loyola’s social media accounts if you can’t make it to a game.



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ALUMNI PROFILE

SETTING A GOLD STANDARD

MCKENZIE COAN, '18, REFLECTS ON HER PARALYMPIC AND PERSONAL JOURNEY

BY ERIK PEDERSEN

Mckenzie Coan, '18, was only 16 years old when she competed in her first of four Summer Paralympic Games for Team USA. That experience, held in London in 2012, laid the groundwork for a swimming career on the international level, which so far has included seven Paralympic medals—four gold and three silver.

It also served as her initial introduction to Loyola. Head Swimming and Diving Coach **Brian Loeffler, '91**, served on Team USA's coaching staff in 2012, and Greyhounds swimmer **Joe Wise, '15**, was teammates with Coan in London.

"I'll never forget the way Joe's face lit up when he talked about Loyola," Coan said. "After returning home, I started having conversations with Brian about what it would look like if I came here. I told him my goals: to be on the podium in 2016, and to swim for a Division I collegiate program while receiving a great education. He said, 'If you give me everything you have, I promise I'll give you everything that I have, and we can make that happen.'"

Coan would ultimately achieve all three of those goals. She won four medals, including three golds, at the 2016 Summer Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, she was a four-year letterwinner on the swimming and diving team, and she graduated with a bachelor's degree in political science.

Coan returned to Baltimore last spring, serving as Loyola's 2025 Commencement speaker and receiving an honorary doctor of humane letters degree.

Reaching the podium capped an athletic and academic journey that began as an infant when Coan was diagnosed with osteogenesis imperfecta, or brittle bone disease. That condition led to countless hospital stints as a child—and more than 100 broken bones throughout her life—but it also spurred a determination to not let her disability define her.

Coan's time as a student allowed her to excel at the highest level internationally while also fulfilling her dream of swimming collegiately. Loyola's impact on Coan, though, extended well beyond the pool. She names Loeffler and the **Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J.**, as lifelong mentors, and she credits her professors for their endless support and flexibility when she was off campus for extended periods to compete.

"I expected to get a great education and become a great swimmer at Loyola, but I think the biggest blessing, and the thing I didn't expect, was how much it would transform my entire life," Coan said. "The Loyola community raised me, and I take the same values that I learned there with me every day in my life."

Helping others has always been a priority for Coan. While still in high school, she founded Kenzie Kares, a nonprofit organization providing support to young children facing extended hospital stays. Since then, she has used her global platform to serve as a leading advocate for disability rights.

While her competitive drive remains—she aims to qualify for a fifth Paralympic Games in Los Angeles in 2028—Coan is also looking to further her education, considering pursuing a master's degree before starting law school in the future.

"I started seriously ramping up my training in the water again this summer," Coan said. "My time at Loyola, with four years on the national team, college swimming, and academics on top, has definitely prepared me to keep trying to challenge myself." 📢

loyola.edu/go/2025-commencement-speech

Watch Coan's Commencement 2025 speech.



GIVING NEWS

LOYOLA RECEIVES GIFT TO CREATE THE KNOTT FAMILY STUDENT-ATHLETE WELLNESS PROGRAM

BY RITA BUETTNER, M.A. '24

Loyola University Maryland is establishing a new program to enhance student-athlete wellness initiatives, thanks to a gift from Trustee **Mark Knott, '92**, and his wife, **Patricia, M.S. '19**.

Through the Knott Family Student-Athlete Wellness Program, Loyola will develop and offer initiatives to promote and advance the wellness of Greyhounds student-athletes.

"Mark and Patty Knott are addressing a need that is so critical for today's student-athletes—but they are also ensuring that we will be able to offer this support for generations," said **Brian M. Oakes, '99, MBA '10**, vice president for advancement.

A former collegiate lacrosse player and now a professional counselor, Patty recognizes the importance of providing mental health support to young people, especially athletes. She and Mark are parents of three daughters who played college lacrosse, and they have seen how college athletes can use additional support.

"We've seen the stress and the additional pressures that come with being an athlete in college, juggling all the required physical conditioning, the schooling,

loyola.edu/go/knott-family-wellness

Learn more about the Knott Family Student-Athlete Wellness Program.



and the workload," said Mark Knott, vice president for Maryland Management Co. "There's a need at all universities for more support for students, and in my opinion, it just seems to be a bigger need when you layer the athletic piece onto it. All these students have pressures, and student-athletes have even more."

Funds from the program will enhance existing resources and establish new ones for physical health and injury prevention, mental health support, increased academic support, and investment in leadership development.



McKenzie Coan, '18, holds her silver medal at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. So far, she has competed in four Summer Paralympic Games for Team USA and won seven Paralympic medals—four gold and three silver.

COURTESY OF MCKENZIE COAN, '18.

ALUMNI PROFILE

HOW EDWARD ASHTON WROTE HIS OWN STORY

FROM HAVING A NOVEL ADAPTED FOR A HOLLYWOOD FILM TO HELPING CREATE A GROUNDBREAKING CANCER DRUG, THE 1991 GRADUATE PROVES THAT A LOYOLA DEGREE CAN TAKE YOU ANYWHERE

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN PEPOSE, '07

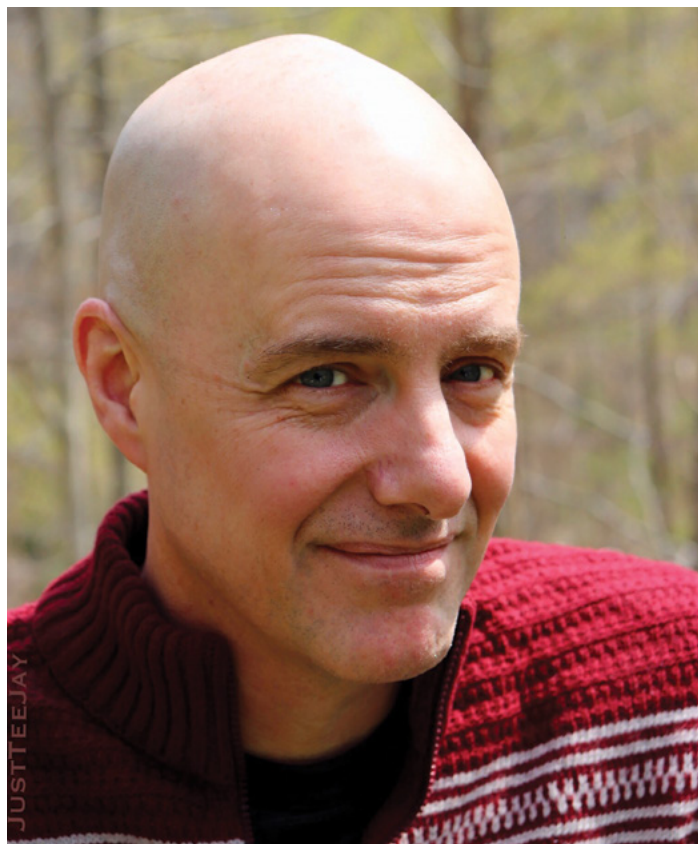
When **Edward Ashton, Ph.D., '91**, walked into his first creative writing class at Loyola, he had already been writing stories for years—and submitting them to magazines since high school. He thought he was pretty good. Then he met **Karen Fish**, associate professor of writing.

“In the first class I took with her my freshman year, she made it very clear to me that I was not great!” Ashton recalled with a laugh. “I had a lot to learn.”

There are two ways to take that kind of feedback, he said. “You can say, ‘Boy, I’m really mad.’ Or you can say, ‘Hey, this is somebody who’s going to help me become better.’ I took that second route.”

Ashton went on to take every creative writing course Loyola offered, including two independent studies with Fish. He even received a fellowship from Loyola’s Center for the Humanities to write a novel under Fish’s supervision. “She’s one of the people I would cite as a founder of my career,” he said.

Today, Ashton is the author of popular sci-fi novels including *Three Days in April* (2015), *The End of Ordinary* (2017), and *Mickey7* (2022). The latter was recently adapted into the 2025 film *Mickey 17*,



directed by Bong Joon-ho and starring Robert Pattinson.

Despite his love of writing, Ashton majored in electrical engineering at Loyola. “Loyola was one of the few schools that had an engineering program but also emphasized the liberal arts,” he explained.

He was also a four-year member of the men’s varsity swim team, serving as captain his senior year. “Athletics has always been a big part of my identity.

I believe in developing both mind and body like the Ancient Greeks did,” he said. “Loyola supported that.”

After graduation, Ashton earned his Ph.D. in Medical Imaging from the University of Rochester, co-founded a biotech startup, and now works as a cancer researcher. His team recently had a drug approved for pediatric glioblastoma, leading to a 60% cure rate in trials.

“There are 262 children alive right now who would not be if that work had not been done,” he said. “That’s incredibly rewarding.”

While his scientific background doesn’t necessarily drive his fiction,

it does help ensure accuracy. “It drives me nuts when I read sci-fi where it’s obvious the author doesn’t understand the science,” he pointed out. “My background gives me the foundation to know where I need to dig deeper.”

These days, Ashton lives in a cabin in the woods in upstate New York, balancing his day job with writing, swimming, long walks with his dog, and time with his wife and three adult children. When asked what advice he’d give to Loyola students, he doesn’t hesitate.

“Don’t let people pigeonhole you,” he said. “Human beings aren’t meant to do just one thing. We can do a million different things. That’s what brings joy and balance.”

If you’re a physics major, read a book. If you’re an artist, take a math class, he advised. “Loyola forces you to engage with history, art, religion, philosophy—and that balance is essential to becoming a better citizen, a better thinker, and a happier person.”

Ashton remains deeply grateful to the University. “I was a poor kid from West Virginia, and they gave me a free education,” he said. “I hope I’ve paid that forward through the work I’ve done and the impact I’ve tried to make.”

COURTESY OF EDWARD ASHTON, PH.D., '91.

Family Bound by Hounds



loyola.edu/
greyhound-authors

Find a list of recent titles by Greyhound authors.

AUTHOR Q&A: RONNIE SMITH, '77

LEGENDS OF LOVE: THE ANGELIC KINGDOM

BY MADISON BORIS, '14



Ronnie Smith, '77, is a poet whose work blends childhood wonder, mystical adventure, and Christian mysticism. A former military navigator who

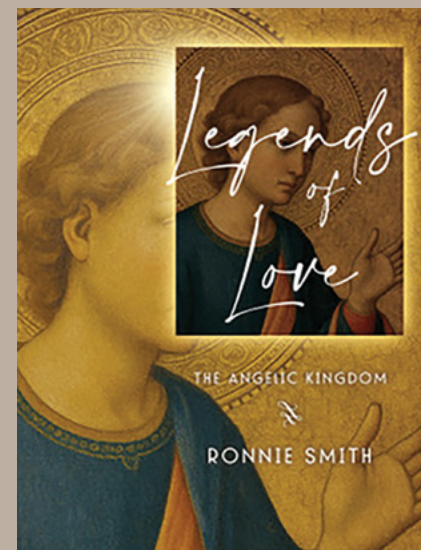
traveled the world and now lives in California, he channels life’s revelations into accessible, contemplative verse. His latest book, *Legends of Love: The Angelic Kingdom*, offers poetic and personal revelations that illuminate the beauty and purpose of Christianity’s angelic hierarchy, or order of angels. Through his work, Smith invites readers to explore their connection to the divine.

What inspired *Legends of Love: The Angelic Kingdom*, and how does it build on your previous works?

After writing about the revelations of Christian saints in my previous works, exploring the Angelic Kingdom felt like the natural—if daunting—next step. The inspiration that creates mystical poetry comes from the heart, compared to other poetry that stems mostly from intellect. I hope to help readers understand the angelic realm and how it supports their growth toward God.

You write that angels are “within reach.” How has this belief shaped your spiritual path?

I had a vivid, personal encounter with angels when I was 24, which I describe in the introduction of the book. Since then, the angels have helped model what it means to live a God-centered life. Scripture tells us each soul is assigned a guardian angel. Angels, more evolved than we are, draw from the wisdom of the divine mind and gently guide us—when we’re open to it.



How did your Loyola education impact your writing and your career?

My sociology and poetry professors, in particular, sparked my intellectual and creative curiosity. Beyond academics, my experience playing team sports and forming lifelong friendships deeply influenced me. I’m still close with some of my Loyola friends. Their positive influence, and that of others in our class, has inspired me to pursue a life of service, creativity, and spiritual growth.

How do you approach writing mystical poetry?

Prayer and poetry come from the same place: the heart. I write from lived experience, meditating on what moves my soul. Meditation helps me build a strong connection between my brain and my soul, and I channel that connection into my writing.

After writing four books on faith and mysticism, what have you learned?

The more I study divine law and the lives of the saints, the more I realize how little I know. That’s why I, why all of us, need Christ—and the loving help of angels—to guide us. Writing these books has been a humbling, transformative journey. **L**

OTHER LOYOLA AUTHORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

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

Supporting Student Executive Functions: Strategies and Insights for Educators, Co-author: **Alexis Reid, '04**

NAFSA's Guide to International Student Recruitment, Co-editor: **Rachel M. Scholten**, director of international admission

Reframing Trauma: A Psychospiritual Theory and Theology, Co-editor: **Jill Snodgrass, Ph.D.**, professor of theology

Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies in Mathematics and Technology Education: Research, Practices, and Critical Reflections, Co-author: **Karen Terrell, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mathematics education

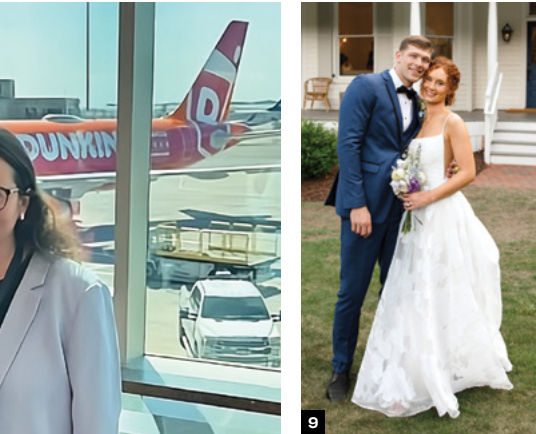
Science Education and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies: Research, Practices, and Critical Reflections, Co-author: **Karen Terrell, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mathematics education

STEM Education and Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies: Research, Practices, and Critical Reflections, Co-author: **Karen Terrell, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mathematics education

FamilyClass Notes

SHARE YOUR NEWS

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



1974

Dennis Narango (M.A. '99) has been elected president of the Catholic Men's Fellowship of Maryland.

1984

1 Kenneth A. Porro became a member in Brach Eichler's Land Use Practice Group in Roseland, New Jersey.

1986

5 Philip Merrill was featured on an episode of the show Collector's Call on June 15 on MeTV.

1988

3 Joe Scandariato, a Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Financial Advisor, was recently named to the 2025 Barron's "Top 1,200 Financial Advisors" list.

1990

Karen Stein (MBA) has been named chief administrative officer & general counsel for T5 Data Centers.

1998

Anne Thomson (M.Ed.) received the Reading Tutor of the Year Award from the Siena Literacy Center in Detroit.

1999

Michael Thomas Perone's short story collection, The Electric God and Other Shorts, was the recipient of The Spring 2025 BookFest Award in the category of Short Stories, and the 2024 Firebird Book Award in the same category, where it received first place.

2008

10 Timothy Snow, D.O., and Caroline (O'Neill) Snow, '09, M.S. '11, and their 3-year-old son, Sterling, welcomed baby girl, Lily, on Jan. 24, 2025, in Charlottesville, Virginia.

2014

2 Chris and Kim (Weir) DeGirolamo welcomed their son, Nathan Dude, on their wedding anniversary, July 15, 2025.

Shane and Abby (Powell) Dybas welcomed their son, Zbignief (Ziggy) Edward Michael, in March 2025.

2017

Nick Stellway was named vice president of sales and leasing for Hyatt Commercial.

Two Loyola alumni ordained as priests

Two Loyola University Maryland alumni were ordained as priests this year. The Rev. Jonathan Pennacchia, S.J., '14, (right) was ordained on June 14, 2025, at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City, and the Rev. Thomas O'Donnell, '15, was ordained on June 21, 2025, at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore.

Fr. Pennacchia will serve in pastoral ministry at the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola in New York City, and Fr. O'Donnell will serve as temporary associate pastor for the Catholic Community of South Baltimore before returning to Rome to continue his studies.

The Rev. Melvin Rayappa, S.J., who taught engineering at Loyola from 2020-22, was also ordained on June 14.



Bobby Trosset and Tori Trosset, '19, returned to the Evergreen campus to celebrate their brother

11 John Trosset's graduation from Loyola in May 2025. They posed for a photo with President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., after Baccalaureate Mass.

2018

7 Rob and Daley (Keator) DiBias (M.A. '19) were married on Sept. 21, 2024, when they gathered a group of Loyola alumni—including members of the classes of 1981 and 1966—for a photo.

2019

4 Chris and Hannah Flury Dauses welcomed their daughter, Cecilia Clare, on June 27, 2025.

6 Jacob Stover (MBA '20) has joined Foundry Commercial as a senior associate in the firm's Dallas office, where he works within the firm's Land Services team.

2021

9 Patricia Oates and Conor Lowther were married on April 26, 2025, at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Cary, North Carolina. The wedding party included Paige Akins, Jack Drengwitz, Olivia Gladis, Maeve Lowther, '25, Liam Oates, '25, and Eileen Woods.

2022

8 Grace Kirkman, associate manager of field marketing for Dunkin', connected with Julia Mulry, '20, senior marketing analyst of social media for JetBlue, during the JetBlue x Dunkin' Launch event for a new co-branded plane, Brewing Altitude, at Boston Logan Airport on May 12.

Family In Memoriam



Edward "Nap" Doherty, '53, longtime beloved Loyola coach and administrator, and former 1,000-point scorer for the Greyhounds men's basketball team, died on June 28, 2025, at age 93. Doherty graduated

with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration after wrapping up his career as the third all-time leading scorer in program history. After serving in the U.S. Army and then in the financial industry in Brooklyn, New York, Doherty returned to Loyola as an assistant coach from 1957-61. He was named the men's basketball program's ninth head coach in 1961 with the responsibility of replacing his collegiate head coach, Emil "Lefty" Reitz. Doherty spent 13 seasons at the helm of the men's basketball program from 1961-74, and he remains second all-time in victories at the school behind Reitz. In addition to his role as the basketball coach, he was the assistant athletic director of intramurals and coached golf. He later served as head men's basketball coach at The Johns Hopkins University from 1981-86.



Frederica "Freddie" Kolker Saxon, '81, former Loyola trustee, died on March 7, 2025. She was 91. Born in Baltimore, Saxon earned her executive MBA degree at Loyola. A local business and charitable leader, Saxon served in

leadership roles for The Associated: Jewish Federation of Baltimore, The Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore, the Jewish College Services of Baltimore, and the boards of St. John's College in Annapolis and the Baltimore Museum of Art. Her career included time as a claims adjuster, political activist, mentor to women, construction manager, and the first female chair of the Baltimore County Chamber of Commerce. Loyola awarded Saxon its Andrew White Medal in recognition of her public service.



Margaret Murphy Mohler Strahan, MSA '57, former trustee, died on Feb. 12, 2025, at the age of 89. Born in Baltimore, she was raised in Long Island, New York, until she returned to attend Mount Saint Agnes College,

which later merged with Loyola. During her career, she was a nurse, a Howard Community College administrator, and an educator of pediatric nursing and sex education. Selected as the 1974 Alumna of the Year by the Mount Saint Agnes College Alumnae Association, she was the first laywoman elected to Loyola's Board of Trustees and received the John Carroll Medal in 1988. For approximately 30 years, Strahan served as president of the Mount Saint Agnes College Alumnae Association. She also sat on local boards and volunteered in roles addressing equality, health, justice, and poverty.

Ferdinand F. Leimkuhler, Jr., Ph.D., '50, May 2025

Joseph S. McLaughlin, M.D., '53, March 2025

Charles H. Foos, '57, June 2025

James F. Henneman, '58, May 2025

James E. Vaeth, Jr., '58, March 2025

John R. Lindung, '60, March 2025

The Hon. W.G. Schwessinger, Jr., Esq., '60, February 2025

Paul A. Karpers, '61, February 2025

John R. Baker, '62, M.Ed. '66, April 2025

James C. Burch, Jr., '62, April 2025

John Q. Feller, Jr., Ph.D., '62, March 2025

Joseph C. Orlando, M.D., '62, June 2025

Henry Becker III, '63, February 2025

Robert W. Erskine, '64, April 2025

William A. Gardiner, Jr., '64, May 2025

Robert S. Pisarski, '64, February 2025

L. Mark Vincent, Esq., '65, May 2025

Mary Muratore, M.Ed. '66, February 2025

David W. Chrismer, '67, June 2025

Joseph J. Steigerwald, Esq., '67, April 2025

Bert Lloyd, M.Ed. '69, June 2025

James E. Plutschak, M.Ed. '70, February 2025

Stephen F. Sullivan, '70, April 2025

Robert C. Kyle, '71, June 2025

Louise M. Pluschkell, '72, May 2025

Kathleen Appleby Lassetter, '73, June 2025

Sr. Valerie R. Jarzembowski, OSF, M.Ed. '74, April 2025

William P. Brown, '75, June 2025

Mary O. Poliszczuk, M.Ed. '79, May 2025

Carmela A. Sofia, M.D., '79, January 2025

Kay Harriet Ballard, M.Ed. '81, May 2025

Denise C. Barrett, '81, May 2025

Charles A. Crew, MBA '82, March 2025

Charles G. Nellis, MBA '82, March 2025

Rhoda Abrams, MBA '83, June 2025

Anthony C. Ciampaglio, MBA '84, May 2025

Gregory A. Witthauer, '84, June 2025

Cynthia N. Bond, MBA '89, June 2025

Thomas C. Smith, '89, March 2025

Barbara L. Prettyman, M.Ed. '91, February 2025

Dena Gallagher, MSF '94, May 2025

Donald R. Lilley, M.Ed. '96, May 2025

Ana M. Barnabe, MBA '98, April 2025

Rebekah A. Hardie, M.Ed. '99, April 2025

Judith Light-Baker, M.S. '01, March 2025

Jill E. Haggerty, '12, January 2025

HOW TO START A BUSINESS

CHARLES ENGLER, '27, FINANCE MAJOR
AND INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP MINOR

BY ANDREW ALDRICH



Charles Engler, '27, a finance major and innovation and entrepreneurship minor, worked with manufacturers to develop skin care products and founded Luminova Beauty, his third startup since age 14. Engler, who was recognized with a Pava LaPere Innovation Award and \$50,000 for his startup, came to Loyola as a sophomore to learn how to grow his business at the University's Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship. Here he shares tips for starting and growing a business.

1 Begin with a Problem or Passion

Look for something that excites you or a problem that needs attention. For me, it was seeing my sister struggle to find affordable, effective skin care products. I wanted to help not just her, but many others.

2 Don't Wait for the Perfect Time

Forget waiting for the right moment. Start now and let the challenges fuel your journey. In the ups and downs of business, there are no such things as losses, only lessons. Learn from each mistake and use it to improve.

3 Find Mentors and Build Your Network

Surround yourself with like-minded people who challenge and support you. My mentors at Loyola helped me see opportunities I would have missed on my own. Test your ideas and listen to feedback. Get real opinions and be open to change.

4 Stay Focused on Your Mission

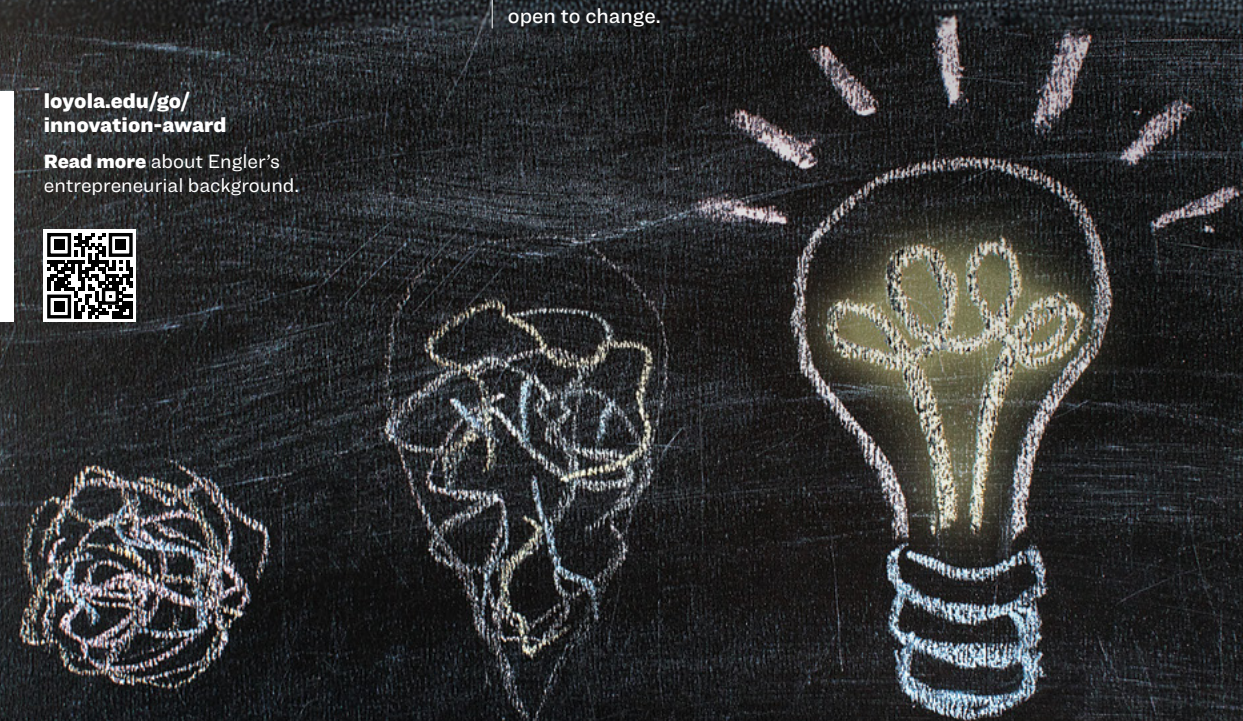
Challenges will cloud your vision, whether you make less money than expected or receive negative feedback. Always remember why you started your business and what inspired your initial idea.

5 Give Back and Build Community

Build the community around you. Be a role model for others and invest in the community that's supporting you and your dream.

loyola.edu/go/innovation-award

Read more about Engler's entrepreneurial background.



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50th Reunion Dinner • 25th Reunion Dinner

Milestone Class Cocktail Reception

Battle of Charles Street • Valentine's Vow Renewal

LOYOLA ALUMNI WEEKEND 2026

February 13–15

loyola.edu/alumniweekend

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DREAM TEAM AT THE POOL

Twenty-three-time Olympic gold medalist and Baltimore native Michael Phelps joined the Baltimore Ravens at Loyola's Fitness & Aquatic Center in August to promote important messages about water safety. The event, spurred by social media posts by Ravens players, was featured by the *Today Show* and host Craig Melvin, with members of the Michael Phelps Foundation delivering the basics of water safety to Ravens players. Loyola students participated as lifeguards and water safety instructors, helping players and members of the local Boys & Girls Club learn the basics of swimming.

loyola.edu/go/phelps-swim-lessons

Watch these swim lessons in action.



LOYOLA ATHLETICS



The Wall Street Journal, The 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S.

#19 BEST
COLLEGE
IN THE
NATION

#1 COLLEGE IN MARYLAND
JESUIT & CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL IN THE
PATRIOT LEAGUE

#51 NATIONALLY FOR
IMPACT ON
GRADUATE SALARIES

#81 NATIONALLY FOR
STUDENT EXPERIENCE