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**MYSTERY SOLVED**

Loyola students help identify victim in Howard County's oldest cold case

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**LOYOLA  
CONSULTING  
GROUP EMPOWERS  
BOTH STUDENTS  
AND THEIR CLIENTS**

A real-world consultancy led by students and mentored by faculty helps local organizations grow

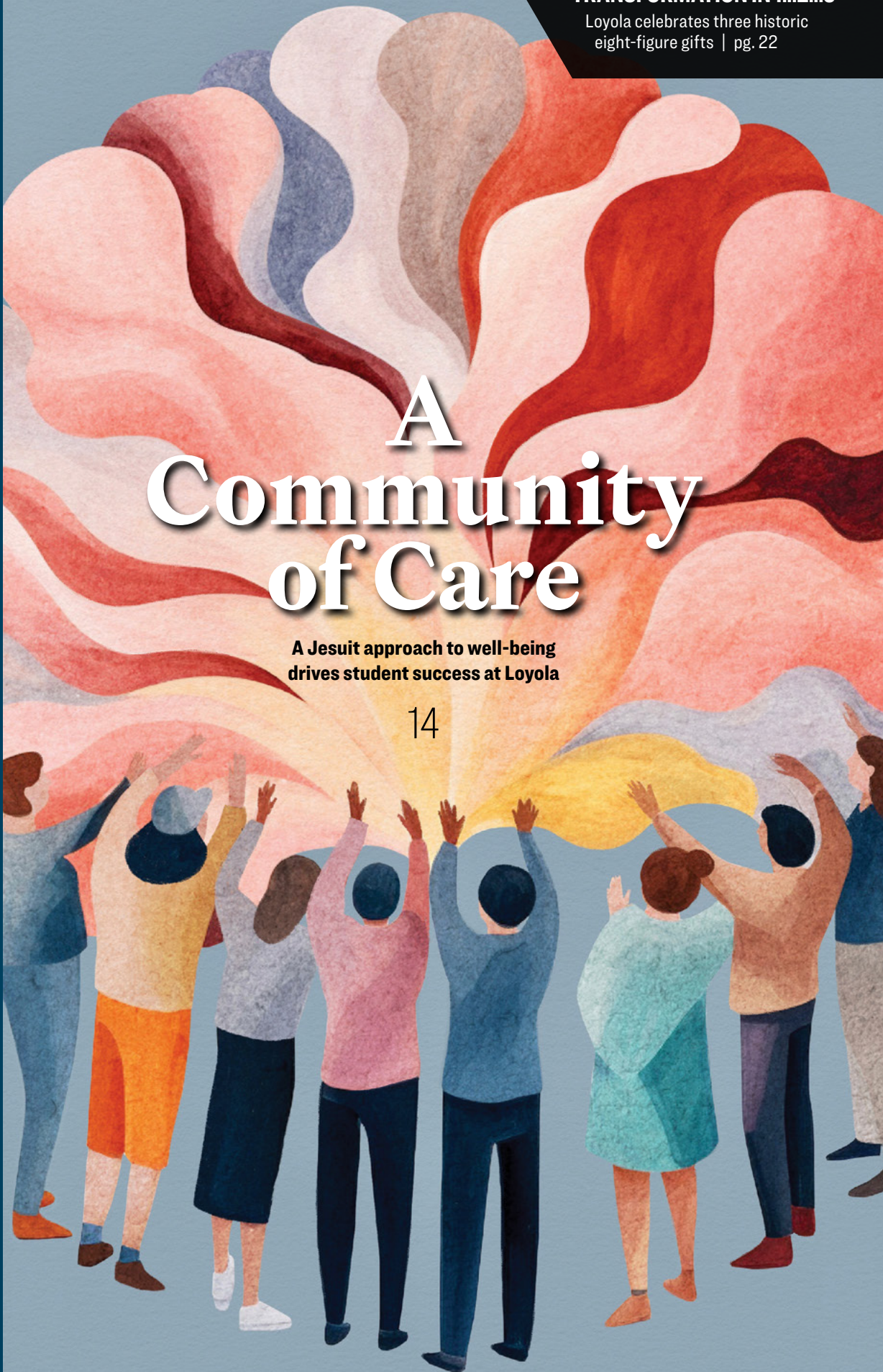
**TRANSFORMATION IN 1...2...3**

Loyola celebrates three historic eight-figure gifts | pg. 22

# A Community of Care

A Jesuit approach to well-being drives student success at Loyola

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RYAN NIEBLER '26

SCENE

## NO TIME LIKE SNOW TIME

BY JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

There's nothing like a blizzard to get the Evergreen campus giddy.

On Sunday, Jan. 25, Baltimore had its first major snowstorm in a decade—with more than 11 inches of snow followed by two to four inches of sleet. Impacting 34 states, Winter Storm Fern was a significant nor'easter—and it made for extra winter fun at Loyola.

Loyola students had already returned for the spring semester, and with campus closed for a few days, they made the most of their time playing in the snow, building icy snow structures, and sledding with whatever they had available.

Alumni cheered on the festivities on social media, reminiscing about storms past and sharing favorite core Loyola memories. "Always great to have a day to be a kid again," posted a member on the Loyola Facebook page.

**"Kindness is like snow—  
it beautifies everything  
it covers."**

Kahlil Gibran

## VIEW FROM THE PORCH

Earlier this semester, some of my marketing colleagues invited me to film a video inspired by the YouTube talk show *Hot Ones*, where guests answer questions while eating progressively hotter Buffalo wings. I don't always seek out spicy food, but I knew the interview would resonate with students. As the heat built up, **Kerry Tan, Ph.D.**, professor of economics, tossed questions my way, including, "What's hot at Loyola right now?" As you'll see in this issue, plenty.

Loyola continues to attract national attention. It was named a "dream school" in Jeff Selingo's latest book and ranked as the top Catholic college in the country by the *The Wall Street Journal*—and No. 19 among all colleges and universities in the nation.

We are deep in the exciting work of our strategic plan, *Together We Rise*, which is designed to elevate Loyola and position us as a preeminent university for student success. The work around student success is essential and speaks to Jesuit values—especially as we invest in student well-being, including mental health.

We are launching innovative academic programs that not only get the attention of high-achieving prospective students but also meet the needs of our community and our rapidly changing world.

We are seeing an incredible number of applications for undergraduate admission, approaching nearly 13,000 applications this year.

On top of all of that, the campus and Greyhound Nation are buzzing about a series of extraordinary, historic gifts for Loyola—our first eight-figure gifts in University history. Please join me in thanking the Cochrans, Hanways, and Bloomfields for demonstrating their belief in Loyola and its future.

What a time for Loyola! Whether you've been on the Evergreen campus recently—perhaps for Alumni Weekend in February—or are keeping up with us from afar, I hope you'll stay in touch to hear what's hot on campus. Please know that all you are achieving is strengthening our Jesuit, liberal arts university, and that our continued success is thanks to you and your support.

God bless and go Hounds.

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



President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., stands with Susan S. Bloomfield, MBA '94, who along with her husband, Bill, made a landmark \$12 million commitment to establish Bloomfield Hall—the new addition to Donnelly Science Center—and the Bloomfield First-Generation Scholarship.

PHOTO BY LARRY CANNER

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[LOYOLA.EDU/GO/HOT-HOUNDS](https://loyola.edu/go/hot-hounds)

Watch *Hot Hounds*, an interview with President Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D., and Kerry Tan, Ph.D., professor of economics.



## NEWS FROM LOYOLA

# MYSTERY SOLVED

LOYOLA STUDENTS HELP IDENTIFY VICTIM IN HOWARD COUNTY'S OLDEST COLD CASE

BY LIAM DAVIS

“The relationships you can build with people, especially when dealing with traumatic things—it’s really nice to have that support system. I think Loyola and the professors provide that space for students who are going into internships, working on real cases, and working on things that impact real people.”

Bethany Bessling, '25

Loyola forensic science students recently played a pivotal role in helping to identify a woman whose identity had been a mystery since her death in 1971.

As interns for the Howard County Police Department (HCPD), the students documented and digitized evidence, reexamined fingerprints, and leveraged modern tools like forensic genealogy and artificial intelligence.

In September 2025, HCPD announced that the victim—known for more than five decades as a Jane Doe—had been identified as Sadie Belle Murray. She was born Sept. 7, 1924, in Pennsylvania, and went by the name Sarah Belle Sharkey at the time of her death.

The identification not only solved a 54-year-old mystery but also reunited two of Sharkey’s surviving adult children, who had been unaware of what had happened to their mother.

### Offering Closure

One of the students who worked on the case was **Bethany Bessling, '25**, a psychology and forensic science double major who interned with HCPD’s cold case unit in fall 2024. Now enrolled in Loyola’s Master of Science in Forensic Pattern Analysis program, Bessling said the experience demonstrated the real-world impact of forensic science.

“I wish I could put into words how it feels. It’s surreal,” Bessling said. “Something really unfortunate and sad happened to this family. It was truly rewarding to be able to give them some type of information and closure.”

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As interns for the Howard County Police Department (HCPD), Loyola forensic science students documented and digitized evidence, reexamined fingerprints, and leveraged modern tools like forensic genealogy and artificial intelligence.



LOUIS UMERLIK, '26



COURTESY OF BETHANY BESSLING, '25

Working under cold case detective **Cpl. Wade Zufall**, a 24-year law enforcement veteran and affiliate instructor of forensic science at Loyola who oversees the program, Bessling helped send fingerprints to every state police department nationwide, organized and digitized old case files, and assisted in creating an AI-enhanced facial rendering of Sharkey in the hopes that someone might recognize her. Bessling also coordinated with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), to collect artist renderings to support their efforts.

### Interns as Problem Solvers

The internship reflects a growing partnership between Loyola and HCPD that emphasizes experiential learning by empowering students to conduct real investigative casework. “It’s not something

[LOYOLA.EDU/GO/COLD-CASE](https://LOYOLA.EDU/GO/COLD-CASE)

Read more about Loyola students’ role in this case.



that I know is going on at any other department in our area,” Zufall said of the experiential learning element. “Sometimes interns are just doing clerical work. We actually put our interns in a leadership position, actively working on aspects of the case.”

Several Loyola students contributed to the case, including **Julia Viveiros, '24**, the program’s first intern, who now works as a non-sworn contingent employee with HCPD, and **Gabriel Flores, '25**. A conversation between Flores and Zufall about utilizing DNA testing led the department to approve resources for forensic genealogy, which proved critical to identifying Sharkey.

Using DNA samples preserved from the original investigation, HCPD partnered with a forensic genealogy company to build a family tree that led to Sharkey’s identification.

Bessling, Flores, and Zufall presented their work at a conference hosted by the Chesapeake Bay Division of the International Association for Identification last June, where they spoke about how they advanced the case by applying modern tools to reexamine decades-old evidence.

### Real Case, Real Experience

While Sharkey has been identified, the homicide case remains open, and the Howard County cold case unit is investigating several other unsolved cases. Zufall hopes that the internship program continues to grow and recruit Loyola forensic science students to work on these types of cases.

For students like Bessling, the opportunity to intern with the Howard County cold case unit was a chance to gain valuable experience in the field, connect with other students and professionals, and make a difference.

“The relationships you can build with people, especially when dealing with traumatic things—it’s really nice to have that support system,” Bessling said. “I think Loyola and the professors provide that space for students who are going into internships, working on real cases, and working on things that impact real people.”

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

# Xiang Li, M.Ed. '27

BY ALEXIS HOWATT

“The best part of my Loyola program is how connected the courses are to my actual job. I can see that the curriculum is intentionally designed to allow me to immediately apply that new knowledge back to my work.”



**Xiang Li, M.Ed. '27**, who is pursuing her Master of Education in Learning Design and Technology, works

full-time as a specialist at the Multilingual Welcome Center for Baltimore County Public Schools. There, she supports students and families arriving from other countries.

Li assesses students’ English language proficiency so schools can provide appropriate English language development support. She also helps parents and guardians navigate a school system that is often completely new to them.

“I am constantly amazed by immigrants’ resilience and passion as they start a new chapter of life in a new country.”

This fall, Li secured a grant to help her launch a Little Free Library outside the Multilingual Welcome Center, extending that welcome with free, diverse, high-quality books.

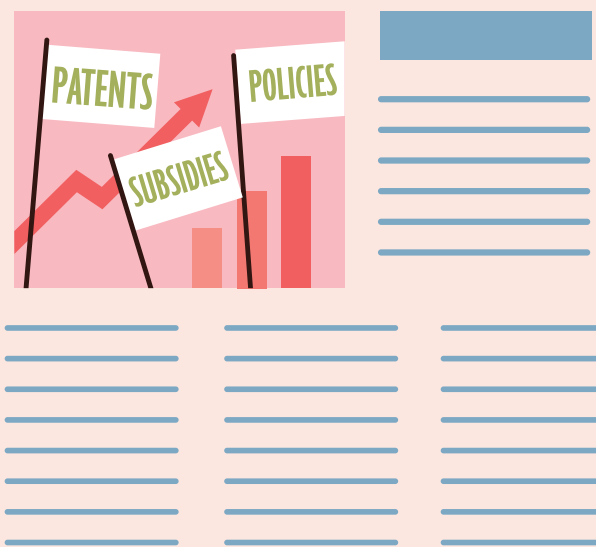
Li began her M.Ed. studies to keep improving her skills while continuing her career. She values learning about AI technology and exploring social justice and techno-ethical discussions that closely relate to her work experience.

Li’s path to this work began with her own language learning. She grew up in China, and English is her second language. “My own experience learning English allows me to deeply understand both the challenges and the joy of acquiring new language and navigating a new cultural environment,” she said.

# POLITICAL ECONOMY EXPLAINED

JOAN RICART-HUGUET, PH.D., SHARES HOW POLITICAL ECONOMY IMPACTS DAILY LIFE

BY LIAM DAVIS



**Joan Ricart-Huguet, Ph.D.**, associate professor of political science, is an expert on political economy, African politics, and comparative politics. Ricart-Huguet recently helped inspire the theme of political economy for NPR’s *Planet Money Summer School* podcast and appeared in three episodes. In this Q&A, he explains what political economy is, why it matters, and how it shows up in our daily lives.

### What is political economy?

Political economy studies how the economy affects political outcomes—like elections—and how governments, laws, and institutions shape economic activity.

### What is the government’s role in regulating the economy?

Government regulation is necessary in any complex society. The question isn’t whether governments should regulate

economic activity, but how—and how much. In *Planet Money Summer School*, our discussion focused on intellectual property (IP) rights as an example of regulation. IP rights are important in most advanced societies, especially ones that innovate, but they involve trade-offs. Without patents, you would likely lower the incentives of people and companies to engage in innovation. At the same time, patents can reduce innovation if they allow people and firms to live off economic rents for a long time.

### Can you share an example of those trade-offs?

A funny one is that certain cuts of meat, like steaks, have been patented in the U.S. The social benefits of this “innovation” are far from obvious compared to drugs, and I think many other countries wouldn’t grant a patent for that.

### You also discussed industrial policy on NPR. What is it, and why is it important?

Industrial policy refers to economic policies adopted by the government to influence domestic industries via subsidies, tax breaks, tariffs, and trade policies with the goal of industrializing the country or fostering economic development.

### What’s an example of industrial policy that didn’t work?

Argentina once passed legislation requiring companies to manufacture products domestically, including BlackBerry phones. Argentina doesn’t have a strong history of producing advanced communications technology. The phones produced were expensive and outdated by the time they reached the market. People even smuggled phones into the country to sell them and make a profit. To go up the value chain, they should have focused on their existing strengths like heavy industry, not technology.

### What about a successful example?

Solar panels are a clear case. Twenty or 30 years ago, China didn’t dominate the market. Today, it produces about 80% of the world’s solar panels. That happened partly because of entrepreneurs, but also because the Chinese government consciously subsidized and promoted the industry until firms became global leaders. This gives China significant leverage in global trade and helps explain tensions with the U.S. and Europe over subsidies.

### You recorded a bonus episode on social capital. Why is that topic relevant?

Social capital refers to social connections of individuals and groups that help them achieve their goals, which is in many ways the fabric of society. In the U.S., we have strong *bonding* social capital—ties between people who share interests or a socioeconomic background—but not a lot of social capital that bridges divides between different groups, what is known as *bridging* social capital. Robert Putnam famously illustrated this in his book *Bowling Alone*, published in 2000. His subsequent research shows that the problem remains today, so his findings are more relevant than ever. A decrease in *bridging* social capital feeds political polarization.

### What advice do you give to students who are interested in political economy?

I would encourage business and economics majors to study political science and vice versa. That will improve their understanding of society, and it will help both their personal growth and their success in the job market, whether they choose to work in the public, private, or nonprofit sector. 📌

[LOYOLA.EDU/GO/POLITICAL-ECONOMY](https://LOYOLA.EDU/GO/POLITICAL-ECONOMY)

Read the full Q&A with Joan Ricart-Huguet, Ph.D.



## Notable Thought Leaders

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



“They were seeing these real needs—not just for a spiritual need of a place to go on Sunday, but also for social connection and a sense of purpose.”

**Carsten Vala, Ph.D.**, professor of political science, talking with *The Washington Post* about the growth of Christianity in China

“It was bound to happen at one point, as the buying power of the penny dribbled down to next to nothing.”

**Jason Cherubini**, executive in residence of finance, speaking with *The Baltimore Banner* about the U.S. Mint halting the production of pennies



“The ideal time that we are physiologically able to fall asleep and wake up in the morning is delayed early in adolescence. Combined with early school start times, we shrink the opportunity to sleep, which has all kinds of downstream consequences.”

**Amy R. Wolfson, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology, discussing the debate around school start times with *The Baltimore Sun*

“Conversation is a dying form of communication, but it’s what makes us the most human.”

**Shreya (Patel) Hessler, M.S. '00, Psy.D. '03**, affiliate faculty in psychology, speaking to *The Washington Post* about her “digital detox” class



“The uncertainty associated with the government shutdown makes it challenging for airlines to rationally plan their response and optimize their flight operations.”

**Kerry Tan, Ph.D.**, chair and professor of economics, discussing the impact of the 2025 U.S. government shutdown on airlines in an Associated Press story

“If I’m not in debt, or at least not in high-interest debt, I’m going to be better able to weather the storm than somebody who’s suffering like I am but also has major interest payments to make.”

**J.P. Krahel, Ph.D.**, chair and professor of accounting, talking with WMAR about debt and interest rates

## Notable Faces of Loyola

### RAVEN WILLIAMS CUFFEE

Raven Williams Cuffee, dean of student success, reflects on Loyola's new Thrive Center for Student Success and the importance of her role in helping every student find their place on campus.

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, '23

“THE TOOLS WE EQUIP STUDENTS WITH ACTIVATE THEM AS CHANGE AGENTS AND SCHOLARS.”

#### A PLACE TO THRIVE

A student development professional at Loyola for the past 11 years, Williams Cuffee now leads the Thrive Center for Student Success. She describes the center as a comprehensive space for holistic success coaching, including resources around new student transitional support, academic monitoring and intervention, identity formation, and family programs. Through intentional outreach strategies and follow-up, the Thrive Center stays with students throughout their journeys.

#### LOYOLA.EDU/THRIVE-CENTER

Learn more about the Thrive Center for Student Success.



#### FINDING POTENTIAL

“I love working with college students because they have so much potential. I consider myself blessed to help them envision and achieve their professional and personal aspirations and watch their confidence grow. We have the perfect opportunity to do that with our students, especially through an intersectional identity lens.”

#### THE CITY FOR RAVEN(S)

Originally from Michigan, Williams Cuffee never thought she would stay in Baltimore. A decade later, she has made the city her home, alongside her husband, Paul Cuffee, a Loyola public safety officer. “The community I’ve built here, you can’t find that everywhere.”

#### DEAR STUDENTS:

“Don’t wait to step outside your comfort zone. Make connections early—and one of the best places to start is the Thrive Center. Our mentoring, outreach, and programming will help you flourish at Loyola and beyond.”

#### THAT’S SO RAVEN

Outside of Loyola, you can find Williams Cuffee listening to Prince, exploring new restaurants in Baltimore (her favorite: Urban Oyster), and journaling.

ARON BOUTWELL

## Notable News



### Rankings Roundup

Loyola has been recognized as one of the top universities in the nation in *The Wall Street Journal/College Pulse* 2026 Best Colleges in the U.S. Loyola was ranked No. 19 among 584 universities across the country, rising four spots from last year. The University is the highest-ranked institution among Catholic universities, Maryland schools, and members of the Patriot League. The Sellinger School of Business and Management’s Professional’s MBA program was ranked No. 26 among the Best Online MBA Programs in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, with the specializations ranked No. 10 in Best Online Finance MBA Programs, No. 14 in Best Online MBA Programs in Marketing, and No. 15 in Best Online General Management MBA Programs. *U.S. News* also ranked Loyola’s Data Science program No. 34 nationally for Best Online Master’s in Info Tech and No. 64 nationally for Best Online Master’s in Education.

### Loyola Secures Nearly \$2.4 Million in NSF Grants



DAVID HOE, PH.D.



MARY L. LOWE, PH.D.

Loyola has been awarded a \$2 million, six-year grant from the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish the Empowering STEM Scholars for Success (Empowered Scholars) program. The program will support academically talented students with financial need who are majoring in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, engineering, and forensic science. Additionally, David Hoe, Ph.D., associate professor of engineering, and Mary L. Lowe, Ph.D., professor of physics, have received a nearly \$400,000, three-year grant from the NSF to support the development of active learning instructional materials for two courses offered in quantum computing.

### Dream School

Loyola was one of 75 colleges and universities included on a list of the “new” dream schools in Jeffrey Selinger’s book, *Dream School: Finding the College That’s Right for You*. The book shifts the focus from how colleges select students to how students can choose the right college.

### Engaged in the Community

Loyola was awarded the 2026 Carnegie Elective Classification for Community Engagement, a national recognition of the University’s institutional commitment and excellence in community engagement.

### Setting the Bar for Sustainability

Loyola was again recognized among the nation’s top institutions for environmental sustainability in *The Princeton Review’s “Guide to Green Colleges: 2026 Edition.”* The guide recognizes schools that foster a culture of environmental responsibility. “At Loyola, we are charged and inspired by Pope Francis’ *Laudato Si’* encyclical, on care for our common home,” said Brigid Gregory, sustainability director. “We do this by prioritizing integral ecology, equity, and justice in every aspect of university life, from academics and research to operations and service to the community.”

### A Lifetime of Impact in Education

Loyola honored Rebecca Lange-Thernes, M.Ed. '91, with the University’s School of Education Distinguished Alumni Award on Dec. 4, 2025. The award, which was presented in conjunction with the 34th Sister Cleophas Costello Lecture, celebrates graduates who have exemplified professional excellence, a deep commitment to public service, and an enduring dedication to advancing the mission of education in their communities.

### Loyola Student Honored with Reagan Institute Fellowship

Jason Rowe, '26, an English and classics major, has been awarded a Civic Leaders Fellowship from the Reagan Institute. The fellowship is a hybrid, six-month leadership and professional development program designed to elevate student success in civic and professional life. Rowe was one of 25 new fellows selected from a pool of 196 applicants and is Loyola’s first Civic Leaders Fellow.



JASON ROWE, '26

### Excellence in Public Relations



EISA ABU-SBAIH, '25

The Loyola chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) has received the Star Chapter Award for excellence in providing programming and relationship building opportunities for students. Additionally, Eisa Abu-Sbaih, '25, has been named a National Gold Key recipient, the highest individual honor bestowed upon PRSSA members.

### Three Loyola Students ‘Aim to Revolutionize Electric Vehicle Batteries’

With the guidance of Loyola’s Simon Center for Innovation & Entrepreneurship, three Loyola engineering students are developing a new recyclable battery for electric vehicles.

Adrien Lee, Connor Pavlik, and Carlos Cardoza—all members of the Class of 2028—founded ACC Industries, which blends the initials of their first names, to pursue electric vehicle battery solutions that are more efficient and sustainable than current industry practices. The trio received a 2026 Pava LaPere Innovation Award, which supports emerging entrepreneurs from public and private colleges.



## Notable Cura Personalis

### CARE FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

# LOYOLA CONSULTING GROUP EMPOWERS BOTH STUDENTS AND THEIR CLIENTS

A REAL-WORLD CONSULTANCY LED BY STUDENTS AND MENTORED BY FACULTY HELPS LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS GROW

BY ANDREW ALDRICH

Loyola Consulting Group, a club for students who provide pro bono consulting services to small businesses in Baltimore, grew in both size and sophistication this year. Structured to mentor students at every level, the group provides members with professional development, real-world experience, and business skills all while helping local organizations.

“We start with students who can join first as analysts and rise to the group’s student management team,” said **CeCe Grimberg, ’28**, director of marketing for the group. “We work to develop members into leaders. They start as analysts, learn how to work on a team, and get a feel for how professional consulting firms operate with objectives and deadlines.”

Three students established Loyola Consulting Group in 2020 with about 10 students serving four clients. The group has grown to more than 70 students this year and served eight clients during the fall 2025 semester. The group’s student consultants lead teams of student analysts who serve both nonprofit organizations and for-profit businesses.

Students from across disciplines comprise the group, which can provide a range of services. Students develop digital marketing strategies for clients and improve their websites, social media, and email marketing, for example. They help clients streamline their operations and track their product inventory. They provide grant planning, sponsorship research, and financial projections to increase income, all made possible through the group’s strategic selection and planning process.

“Once we’ve chosen our consultants and analysts for the semester, we look at their majors, skill sets, and interests and pair them with clients who share similar values and can benefit from their qualifications,” Grimberg said. “It’s all about finding the right pieces of the puzzle.”

Loyola Consulting Group accepts new clients every semester: a senior dog rescue, an autism advocacy nonprofit, a smoothie restaurant, a stationery shop, a crab sauce manufacturer, and a professional recruiting firm are examples of past clients. Student teams meet weekly and complete their work with presentations at the end of each semester.

Each student team works with a dedicated faculty mentor, and Loyola Consulting Group’s management team receives guidance from the group’s faculty advisor, **Dave Luvison, DBA**, executive in residence and chair of the department of management and organizations.

“It’s not just a club standing by itself. We’ve got a lot of generous faculty mentors helping the teams succeed,” Luvison said. “What happens in many cases is the student teams develop their plans and then bounce them off their faculty mentors, who help them enhance their plans for their clients. Students work together within their teams, with the officers of the club, and then with their mentors.”

The mentoring process prepares the students for their regularly changing portfolio of clients.

“You get new challenges and new faces every semester,” Grimberg said. “The cycle helps keep the energy up and provides real-world experience. As a professional consultant, your firm will serve different clients and take on different projects. We want to expose students to as many companies and connections as possible.”



RYAN HIEBLER, '26

The Loyola Consulting Group management team—students Michael Tramontozzi, CeCe Grimberg, Courtney Vancura, Matthew Rodgers, Caty Parson, and Joseph Berenger—gathers for a photo with faculty mentor Dave Luvison, DBA. The Loyola Consulting Group’s Final Deliverable Event is the end-of-semester showcase where each consulting team presents its completed project to the client.

[LOYOLA.EDU/GO/CONSULTING-GROUP](https://LOYOLA.EDU/GO/CONSULTING-GROUP)

Learn more about the Loyola Consulting Group.



That exposure has helped Grimberg grow, she said, giving her real-world experience and boosting her confidence in talking with clients and adults in general. It also works the other way around, introducing organizations to Sellinger School students, which in Grimberg’s case led to an internship with one of her clients.

“If you do a good job, the clients notice that, and when they have positions or want more student insight on their team, you could be one of the first people they reach out to,” Grimberg said. “Of all my job interviews, I can’t think of a single one where they haven’t inquired about my professional experience with Loyola Consulting Group.”



RYAN HIEBLER, '26

“You get new challenges and new faces every semester. The cycle helps keep the energy up and provides real-world experience. As a professional consultant, your firm will serve different clients and take on different projects. We want to expose students to as many companies and connections as possible.”

CeCe Grimberg, '28

Student Natasha Essien presents her marketing strategy work as an analyst for The Reeds Fund, alongside fellow analyst Ashley Moran and team consultant Isabella Desintonio.

## RECOGNITION

# GREYHOUNDS GREATS

LOYOLA ATHLETICS CELEBRATES HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2026

BY RYAN EIGENBRODE

**T**welve individuals and the 2012 NCAA Champion Men's Lacrosse Team joined the Loyola University Maryland Athletics Hall of Fame in an induction ceremony on Saturday, March 14.

This class includes 12 individuals who were student-athletes and coaches:

- Suzanne (Eyler) Brey, '03
- Dylon Cormier, '14
- Nichole (Schiro) Erickson, '13
- Joe Fletcher, '14
- Rachel Janasek Turri, '12
- Michael Malone, '94
- Miriam McKenzie, '12
- Tennant McVea, '09
- Brennan Morris, '13
- Andrea (Rovegno) Pendergast, '07, M.Ed. '08
- G. Darrell Russell Jr., '64
- Becky (Corb) Thomas, '06

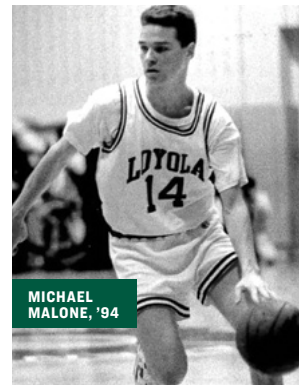
The 2012 Men's Lacrosse Team, which won the second NCAA Championship in school history and the first at the NCAA Division I level, was inducted as a team.

"This is an impressive group of Loyola student-athletes and coaches who deserve this recognition and inclusion in the Athletics Hall of Fame," said **Donna M. Woodruff**, Loyola's associate vice president and director of athletics. "In and out of competition, every single one of these honorees represented our institution at the highest levels, and we were honored to welcome them back to campus to celebrate their induction."

Prior to this induction, 138 individuals and two teams have been inducted into the Hall of Fame since its inception in 1978. **L**



G. DARRELL RUSSELL JR., '64



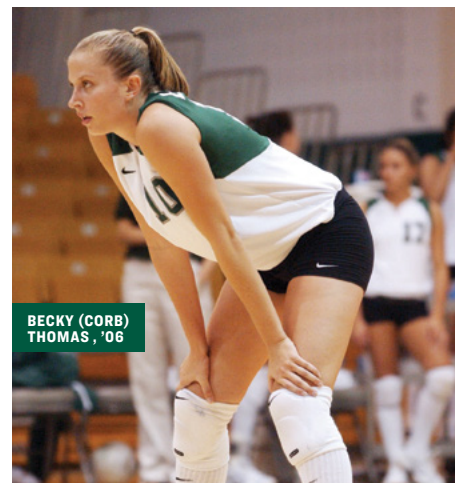
MICHAEL MALONE, '94



DYLON CORMIER, '14



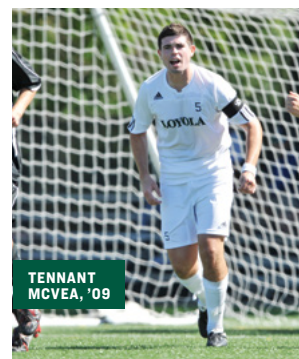
JOE FLETCHER, '14



BECKY (CORB) THOMAS, '06



MIRIAM MCKENZIE, '12

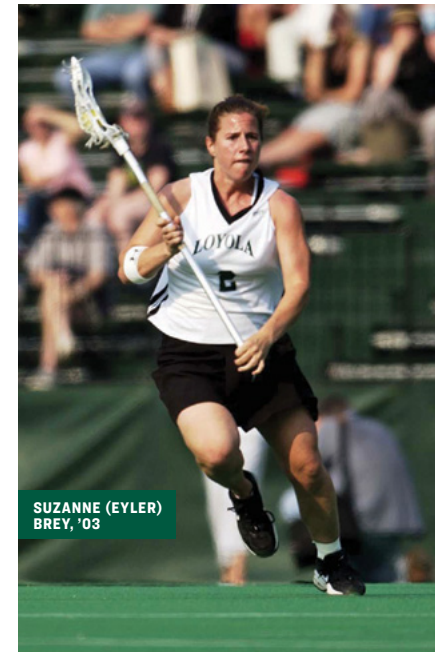


TENNANT MCVEA, '09



ANDREA (ROVEGNO) PENDERGAST, '07, M.ED. '08

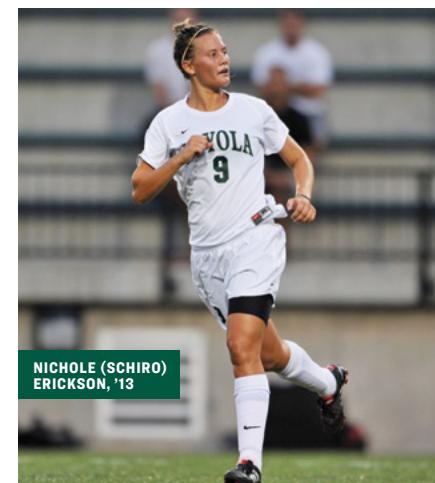
COURTESY OF ATHLETICS



SUZANNE (EYLER) BREY, '03



BRENNAN MORRIS, '13



NICHOLE (SCHIRO) ERICKSON, '13



RACHEL JANASEK TURRI, '12

## Greyhounds Pride



### Loyola receives first gift to establish new Athletics Difference Makers Fund

A \$500,000 gift from **Joan I. Skesavage** and **James S. Skesavage, Jr., '81**, will support the Loyola Athletics Difference Makers Fund, an initiative designed to help Loyola attract and retain top-tier student-athletes.

The Skesavages are the first donors to the Loyola Athletics Difference Makers Fund, which aims to enhance the overall financial support offered to student-athletes by empowering coaches with the resources they need to recruit, support, and retain them. The University has set an initial goal of raising \$2.5 million for the fund.

"Jim and Joan's willingness to step forward with this incredible investment is more impactful than ever as their generous support will further strengthen our focus on recruiting and retaining talented student-athletes as we navigate this pivotal time in college athletics," said **Donna M. Woodruff**, associate vice president and director of athletics.

Jim Skesavage earned his bachelor's in business administration from Loyola in 1981. He competed on the men's swimming and diving team and played on the club rugby team. Jim's career ultimately led him to a 22-year tenure with Atlanta Capital Management, where he was managing director of distribution and client service. He served on Loyola's Board of Trustees from 2015-23.

Jim's own experience with college athletics provided him with an appreciation for the way financial support could make a difference in the lives of student-athletes at Loyola, who must balance a rigorous, Jesuit education with the demands of NCAA Division I sports.

"It comes down to, 'how can we help an individual who we think is a great student-athlete,' which is particularly important at Loyola," Jim said. "I know we can help bright student-athletes who want to commit to staying at Loyola for four years."

After graduating from Loyola, Jim joined the retail brokerage firm Shearson/American Express (now Morgan Stanley) as a financial consultant. He was vice president at NationsBank Investment Management from 1989-92, during which time he earned his MBA from Mercer University's Stetson-Hatcher School of Business. He then worked for 10 years as a global partner at INVESCO US.

"With the completion of this gift, the Skesavages will mark \$1 million in lifetime giving to Loyola—truly a milestone to celebrate," said **Brian M. Oakes, '99, MBA '10**, vice president for advancement. "As the first donors to the Difference Makers Fund, their gift will help shape the future of Greyhounds athletics and support our mission as we strive to strengthen Loyola as a preeminent university for student success."

For more information or to make a gift to the Loyola Athletics Difference Makers Fund, contact **Anthony Giacometti**, associate director of athletics leadership giving, at [angiacometti@loyola.edu](mailto:angiacometti@loyola.edu).



[LOYOLAGREYHOUNDS.COM](http://LOYOLAGREYHOUNDS.COM)

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



# A Community of Care

A JESUIT APPROACH TO WELL-BEING DRIVES STUDENT SUCCESS AT LOYOLA

BY LIAM DAVIS AND JESSICA GOLDSTEIN

ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARIE MONTOCCHIO/IKON IMAGES

One of **Cecilia Oliver's** proudest moments as a student leader happened during her outreach work through the student-led group Active Minds.

The senior—who serves this year as the Student Government Association's director of student support and vice president of the student organization Active Minds—set up a Counseling Center Coffee Hour complete with donuts and a coffee shop music playlist to help students familiarize themselves with the Counseling Center. The event was a success—and a strong example of what Oliver calls, “the power that caring can have on the campus community.”

That's why Oliver loves Loyola so much. “It is very clear that each Loyola employee cares deeply for our students,” she said. “Loyola's care goes beyond academic success. Loyola wants to see students grow as people and community members.”

The Counseling Center offers a wide range of health, nutrition, and self-care events, like the Nourish & Rise Wellness Retreat.



JESSICA DAVID

## A Growing Need

Over the past decade, counseling centers at colleges and universities have seen a substantial surge in demand, with nearly three quarters of students reporting moderate or severe psychological distress, according to the American Psychological Association.

At Loyola, student spiritual and mental well-being are the foundation of the University's broader commitment to student success. This commitment is supported by Loyola's strategic plan, *Together We Rise*, which identifies advancing "student and faculty formation" by creating support networks and fostering personal and spiritual growth as one of four focus areas.

**"Loyola's care goes beyond academic success. Loyola wants to see students grow as people and community members."**



Cecilia Oliver, '26

## Values in Action

To address the call from the strategic plan to better integrate well-being education and support throughout a student's experience, **Jason Parcover, Ph.D.**, a 25-year leader at Loyola, has stepped into the new role of associate vice president for student well-being. In this position, Parcover works cross divisionally on strategic initiatives that support students' physical, psychological, and educational development.

"The entire community has embraced the understanding that well-being is central to our mission and is an endeavor that is shared by every division and department," said Parcover, who oversees the teams in the Counseling Center, Student Health Services, Disability and Accessibility Services (DAS), and Recreation and Wellness.

Loyola's current approach to well-being stems from a rich history in counseling and pastoral services offered at Loyola. The Counseling Center on campus today was formalized in 1969 by the late **Rev. Albert Grau, S.J., Ph.D.** In the nearly 60 years since, the Counseling Center has been serving the University community with Jesuit care and compassion.

The Counseling Center is staffed by experienced professionals who offer in-person and telehealth services to support the

ADAN MEDINA



Jennifer Stevens

Faculty, staff, and students alike are well-versed in the resources available to support students, said **Jennifer Stevens**, Loyola's new director of the Counseling Center

who has been part of the team for more than 14 years. She noted that 43% of students seeking Counseling Center services last year reported they were referred by another student or a Loyola professional.

While the Counseling Center is the primary provider of psychological services at Loyola,

AARON BOUTWELL

mental well-being of Loyola students, as well as emergency support, public health initiatives, and a wide range of health, nutrition, and self-care events.

"At Loyola, our mission calls us to care for the whole person. That happens not just in classrooms, but in conversations, and in the choices we make to uphold a compassionate, welcoming community," said President **Terrence M. Sawyer, J.D.** "College can be stressful, and more than a third of students face serious mental health challenges, but they don't have to face them alone. We have many resources available here at Loyola—and we work to make sure students are aware of where to turn."



Jason Parcover, Ph.D.

**"The entire community has embraced the understanding that well-being is central to our mission and is an endeavor that is shared by every division and department."**

there are many offices and groups that support well-being and make Loyola a place where students can learn, grow, and thrive.

One example is the University's new pre-fall program, LENS: Landing at Loyola, a two-day bridge program to help students who identify as neurodiverse adjust to college. The program, which is hosted by DAS, helps ensure students are set up for success with tailored sessions on academic and career resources, and time to develop social connections at Loyola.

The University is also equipping members of the community beyond the Counseling Center. This year alone, Loyola has trained hundreds of students and employees in mental health first aid.

## Peer-to-Peer Connection

Student-led organizations on campus also play a vital role in elevating student well-being.

This year, Loyola has formed the Greyhound Wellbeing Network, a new group of students training as peer well-being ambassadors. Also new is Loyola's Student Wellbeing Action Group (SWAG), which has evolved from a mental health focus to incorporating a broader mission of promoting well-being.

Loyola rounds out its peer-to-peer offerings through Morgan's Message, geared toward strengthening student-athlete mental health; Togetherall, a 24/7 online platform; and even honors societies' wellness programming—just to name a quick few.



Loyola has an active chapter of Active Minds, a student-run organization working to utilize student voice to change the conversation about mental health on college campuses.



## Counseling Center by the Numbers:

Serves about  
**800**  
students yearly

Utilized by roughly  
**45%**  
of students

Contributed to the  
ACADEMIC  
SUCCESS of **626** students last  
school year

## Go Green for Support

Then there is the Green Bandana Brigade, which Parcover considers to be one of the University's most innovative endeavors. The voluntary training program equips community members with the skills to identify signs of distress, offer meaningful support, and connect students to the appropriate resources they may need.

"Upon completing the training, individuals receive a green bandana in Loyola's signature color—which they can wear on their backpack or display in their office—serving as a powerful symbol of our community's unwavering commitment to one another's well-being," explained Parcover.

## People for People

The Counseling Center, the many student-led groups, and other offices on Loyola's campus—such as Campus Ministry, the Women's Center, Thrive Center for Student Success, and Student Development—are available to support students, families, and the Loyola community during challenging times.

"Mental health and well-being best occur in the context of community," shared Vice President for Student Development **Deborah Cady Melzer, Ph.D.** "As companions to students, we must create communities of care where we listen deeply to students' dreams, fears, desires,

and disappointments and help them grow emotionally, academically, and spiritually."

That rings true for Oliver as she tries to make the most of her time on campus before the Global Studies major with minors in environmental studies and writing graduates.

"These experiences have taught me that it is great to aim high, but that it's also OK to ask for support," said Oliver. "This is a lesson I will bring with me when I leave Loyola." 📌

[LOYOLA.EDU/GO/STUDENT-WELLNESS](https://LOYOLA.EDU/GO/STUDENT-WELLNESS)

Learn more about how Loyola supports students' mental, physical, and spiritual well-being.



CLAIRE PERKINS '23

"Mental health and well-being best occur in the context of community."



Deborah Cady Melzer, Ph.D.



ZOE SIMINSON



TYLER BEAN CROOKER

Loyola's WellFest in the fall promotes wellness resources on campus and also offers a chance to relax with therapy dogs.



## Digital Detox: Disconnecting to Reconnect

As a clinical psychologist, **Shreya (Patel) Hessler, M.S.'00, Psy.D.'03**, has noticed a concerning trend: young people becoming increasingly disconnected from their peers, professors, and other human beings. Driving this shift is the replacement of face-to-face interactions with digital communication and an overreliance on technology.

"All the nuances required in human connection are essentially eliminated with text exchanges," shared Hessler. "It's almost like Gen Z has been the forgotten generation. They were the digital natives but have been left to their own devices to figure out how to be human again."

An affiliate faculty member in psychology at Loyola, Hessler developed a class centered on intentional digital use. The course, first offered in fall 2025, involves digital fasts—intentional breaks from screens—and emphasizes creativity, play, and boredom.

The special topics class—which Hessler believes is the only one of its kind in the country—quickly filled with students eager to change their relationship with technology. Throughout the course, students participated in analog activities that pulled them out of their usual routines like reading books, taking nature walks, and even playing flag football on the Quad.

**Amaya Cunningham, '26**, a pre-med student double majoring in biology and psychology, enrolled hoping to learn material she could apply both academically and personally.

"I've always had a bit of guilt around how much I'm on my phone or on my computer—just being online and not in person," said Cunningham.

Hessler recalled the first two weeks, when students hesitated to limit device use before leaning into discomfort and relearning how to disconnect and engage on a human level.

"One of my students said they almost felt like they lost permission a long time ago to have fun," said Hessler. "College is hard work, but it also needs to be about building skills for community and relationships."

At the course's conclusion, each student presented a "digital manifesto" outlining how they planned to apply what they had learned, with many committing to more intentional technology use.

"I think our generation relies a lot on being online to relax, which actually does the opposite of what you want it to do," Cunningham said. "To really relax requires being analog and being off your phone." 📌

# When Care Becomes a Calling

Alumni Credit Loyola with Shaping Their Careers in Mental Health

BY CLAIRE HOFFMAN PEPOSE, '07

For Loyola alumni working in mental health, Jesuit and Ignatian values aren't abstract ideals. They're daily practices that shape how care is delivered and relationships are built.

That philosophy comes through clearly in the work of **Shreya (Patel) Hessler, M.S. '00, Psy.D. '03**, a licensed psychologist and founder and director of The MINDset Center. "I was encouraged to think beyond techniques or diagnoses and focus on what was in the best interest of the person sitting in front of me," she said of her Loyola education.

"Loyola taught me to see patients as more than a set of symptoms."



Shreya (Patel) Hessler, M.S. '00, Psy.D. '03

Today, *cura personalis*, or "care for the whole person," remains central to her work, along with the Ignatian value of reflection. "Loyola taught me to see patients as more than a set of symptoms," said Hessler. "Taking time to pause, reflect, and examine my choices as a clinician helps me stay grounded, ethical, and present."

That same whole-person philosophy guides **Anthony Muentes, '20, M.S. '23**, who works as a primary therapist at Compass Health Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. Supporting individuals facing complex mental health challenges, Muentes also emphasizes care that extends beyond symptoms.

"It's beneficial to care for the entire person."



Anthony Muentes, '20, M.S. '23

"It's beneficial to care for the entire person," he said, pointing to the role of physical health, family relationships, and support systems in effective treatment.

He credits Loyola's emphasis on service and community engagement—and his study abroad experience in Thailand—with shaping how he builds trust with clients from different backgrounds. "Language and other barriers don't need to stop two people from connecting," said Muentes, who is proficient in Spanish. "We're always going to find a way."

For **Caroline Kovatch, '21, M.S. '24**, similar values show up through her work with children and families. Kovatch works as a mental health counselor at Pleasantville Therapy in Pleasantville, New York, where she specializes in child-centered play therapy. Unlike approaches that focus

"[Play therapy] focuses on the child as a whole person, as opposed to dealing with 'problem' behavior."



Caroline Kovatch, '21, M.S. '24

primarily on correcting behavior, she said, "it focuses on the child as a whole person, as opposed to dealing with 'problem' behavior."

She credits Loyola's clinical training with helping her discover play therapy, and the campus culture with normalizing service to others as part of everyday professional life. "Service opportunities weren't something you had to seek out. They were just so seamlessly ingrained into campus life," she remembered.

"Loyola produces therapists, rather than technicians."



Carl Robbins, M.S. '91

Across generations, Loyola alumni share a belief that the therapeutic relationship sits at the heart of effective care. **Carl Robbins, M.S. '91**, a graduate of Loyola's master's program in counseling psychology, said that even before evidence-based practice became a dominant framework, Loyola emphasized empathy and presence. Students were exposed to multiple theories and approaches, "but there was never a sense that one was preferred over another"—an approach that encouraged discernment rather than rigid adherence to a single model.

That formation continues to shape how Robbins practices and teaches today as both a senior clinician and the director of training at the Anxiety and Stress Disorders Institute of Maryland. As the field becomes focused on specialization and technique, returning to the relationship remains essential. "Loyola produces therapists, rather than technicians," he said. **L**

# TRANSFORMATION

## IN 1...2...3

### LOYOLA CELEBRATES THREE HISTORIC EIGHT-FIGURE GIFTS

BY LIAM DAVIS

**I**n December 2025, Loyola announced the first eight-figure gift in the University's history. That history-making gift caught people's attention.

Then the next week, the University announced a second eight-figure gift. The phones started ringing, and Loyola's social media platforms lit up.

Weeks later, just after 2026 started, news came of a third gift that was larger than each of the two that preceded it. Greyhound Nation couldn't contain its excitement.

That's what momentum looks like. That's how excited Loyola alumni are about the direction of the University right now. With new academic programs coming online and dynamic, strategic growth underway, donors are stepping forward to be part of the transformation and shape the future of the Jesuit, liberal arts university they love.

"This is an incredible time at Loyola with new programs and new offerings, and our alumni are responding to that in extremely positive ways," said **Brian M. Oakes, '99, MBA '10**. "These transformative commitments reflect the continued momentum sparked by the University's strategic plan, *Together We Rise*. I am confident that they will inspire others to be part of this exciting time and invest in the future of Loyola."

Loyola is writing the next chapter in its more-than-170-year-old history. This is a time of growth and transformation, thanks to current leadership, a visionary plan for Loyola to be a preeminent university for student success, and the generous support of those who believe in the promise of Loyola's future.

"These gifts are truly historic. When we look at how they will strengthen the University, I can't overstate the impact their support will have on our students' education and experience," Oakes said. "By dreaming big with us, these donors are shaping the future. What's also incredible is seeing how their gifts are inspiring others to step forward to ask how they can support a particular initiative or simply be part of this moment for Loyola."

That's exactly what these supporters—and others—are hoping their gifts will do, not just have an impact on the University, but invite others to make similar commitments that will secure Loyola's future success.

Meet the donors behind these three historic, transformational gifts, and see why they are excited to help advance Loyola University Maryland.





JEREMY TRAVLOS

## BILL AND SUSAN BLOOMFIELD, MBA '94

Largest Gift in Loyola's History Will Advance STEM Education and Support First-gen Students

**S**usan S. Bloomfield, MBA '94, credits much of her professional and personal success to her Loyola education. Honoring that impact, she and her husband, Bill, made a landmark \$12 million commitment to establish Bloomfield Hall—the new addition to Donnelly Science Center—and the Bloomfield First-Generation Scholarship.

“Our gift stems from gratitude, pride, and confidence,” said Susan, who is the former general manager of Neutrogena Corp. “I am grateful because I would not have been nearly as successful or

impactful in my career without my Loyola education. I am extremely proud of my Loyola education and proud of Loyola's success in preparing students for the challenges of tomorrow's world.”

Susan has remained actively involved with the University and has served on the Board of Trustees since 2022. Today, she and Bill have made the largest gift in the University's history.

Susan notes that her confidence in the University's trajectory and momentum, when combined with her gratitude and pride, cemented her and Bill's desire to make this gift.

“I am quite confident in the direction that the University is headed and the strategic decisions that have been made to ensure a robust future,” she added.

For Susan, her inspiration to support first-generation students is a personal one, driven by her own experience as a first-generation college graduate



RENDERING BY HORD COPLAN MACHT.

from The Ohio State University. First-generation students make up a significant portion of Loyola's student body, including 21% of the Class of 2029 and 22% of the Class of 2028. The Class of 2027 features the highest percentage of first-generation students on record at Loyola with 26%. With this gift, Susan hopes to create more access and help fulfill prospective students' dreams of getting quality education.

Susan earned a Bachelor of Science in International Business and Marketing from The Ohio State University. Since her retirement from Neutrogena, she has served on several corporate and nonprofit boards focused on public education and eliminating educational inequality. Bill is a retired business owner and entrepreneur who is also a community leader and philanthropist.

## PATRICIA AND JOHN COCHRAN, III, '73

Historic Gift Will Support Faculty Excellence and Create Scholarship Opportunities

**J**ohn R. Cochran III, '73, graduated from Loyola before embarking on a successful career in banking with MBNA Corporation. He and his wife, Patricia, have remained actively involved in the University community over the years, living out their commitment to Loyola and Jesuit education through impactful leadership, generous philanthropy, and as the parents of **Katherine Jellick, '00**.

Their \$10 million commitment will significantly increase the Cochran Family Scholarship Fund, create the Cochran Family Center for Faculty Excellence, and establish the Cochran Faculty Fund, simultaneously elevating Loyola's expert faculty while advancing the University's commitment to student success.

## ELLEN AND H. EDWARD HANWAY, '74

\$10 Million Commitment Will Enhance Programs in Sciences and Risk Management

**A**longtime leader in the health insurance industry, **H. Edward Hanway, '74**, understands the shortage of nursing resources in the country. So, when he and his wife, Ellen, saw that Loyola was launching a Bachelor of Science in Nursing program, they knew they wanted to offer their support.

“I'm very proud that Loyola decided to address that and expand its offerings to include nursing in a way that is reflective of the University's mission, and with a partner in Mercy Medical Center that shares that mission of care for others and care for the City of Baltimore,” said Ed, who is the former CEO and board chair of Cigna Corp.

The Hanways are making their \$10 million gift to support the renovation and expansion of Donnelly Science Center and the creation of the Loyola Nursing Leadership Scholars for the

University's new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. “Loyola was, and is to this very day, founded on the principles of my Catholic faith. It is a program committed to excellence and the development of the individual with sound values and good ethics. That excellence has continued with the ‘strong truths well lived’ by Loyola's graduates,” John said. “This is a great opportunity for Pat and me to grow the scholarship fund for future students, particularly those coming from Baltimore.”

John was born and raised in Baltimore City, where he attended Cardinal Gibbons High School. The son of a postmaster and one of eight children, he paid for his Loyola education by working 30 hours a week stocking grocery shelves. After graduating in 1973, John began a career in banking, working at Maryland National Bank as a consumer lending management trainee. He ultimately became chief operating officer of the MBNA Corporation and chairman and chief executive officer of its principal subsidiary, MBNA America Bank.

John credits much of his personal and professional success to his Jesuit education and Loyola experience, which



PHILIP WEBER

has inspired his decades of philanthropy and leadership involvement with the University. This includes his and Patricia's commitment to creating opportunities for students from Baltimore to benefit from the same Loyola education he received.

“Pat and I were both raised in Baltimore City and know the challenges families face when it comes to affording higher education. It is our hope that this scholarship will enable families to send their children to Loyola.”

University's history. Ellen and Ed, who received honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degrees from the University in 2014, are the parents of **Ed Hanway, '99**.

Recognizing the importance of graduating leaders who have a broad understanding of the nature of risk, the Hanways included in the gift funds to establish the Hanway Endowed Professorship in Risk Management and the Hanway Risk Management Experiential Learning Fund. An additional portion of their commitment will provide general operational and scholarship support to the University.

“When people hear ‘insurance,’ they think it sounds boring—but when you understand how risk management facilitates investment, health, and well-being, you realize its broader importance,” said Ed. “Risk management today is about far more than purchasing an insurance policy. It requires a broad understanding of the nature of risk—from cyber to AI to climate—and how it affects both businesses and individuals. Loyola has the strength through the Sellinger School to build a program that immerses students in the full spectrum of modern risk management.”

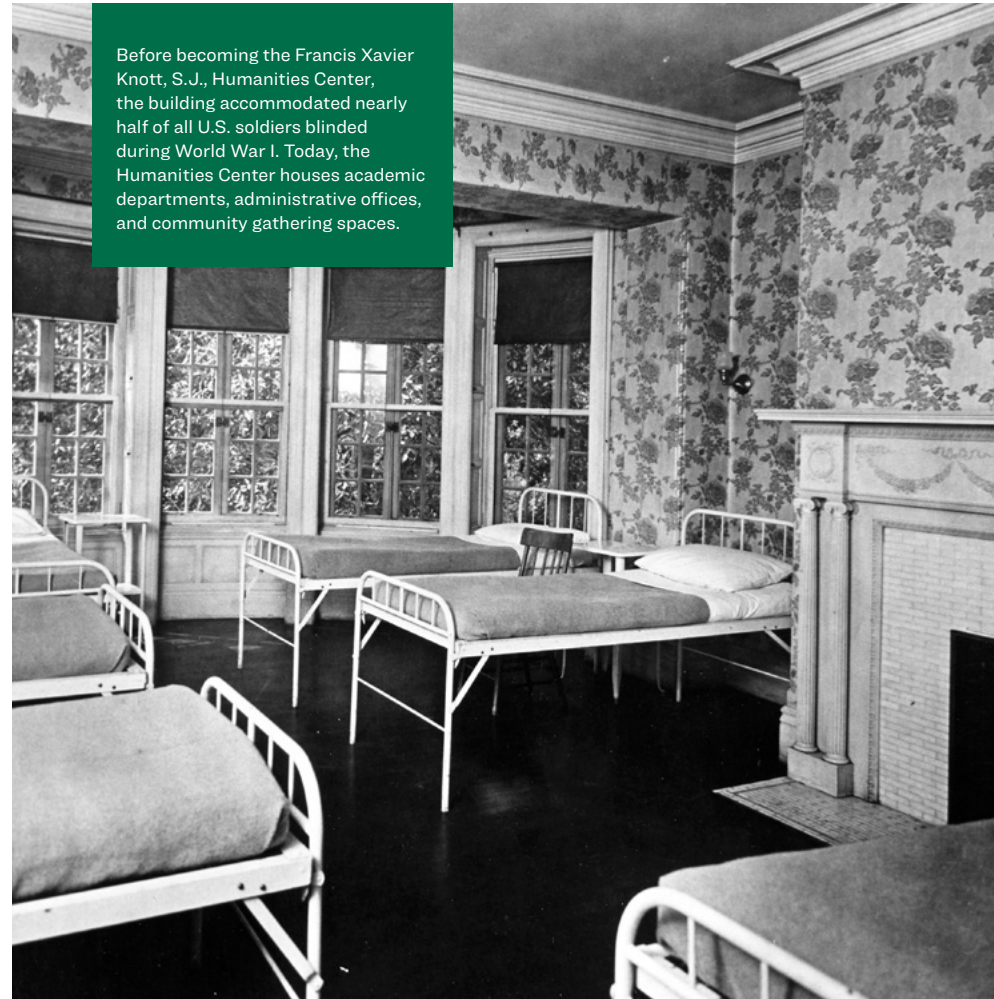


PHILIP WEBER



COURTESY OF LOYOLA/NOTRE DAME LIBRARY

Before becoming the Francis Xavier Knott, S.J., Humanities Center, the building accommodated nearly half of all U.S. soldiers blinded during World War I. Today, the Humanities Center houses academic departments, administrative offices, and community gathering spaces.



VINTAGE

**1919**  
**FROM MANSION**  
**TO MISSION**

BY MADISON BORIS, '14, MBA '26

Before becoming the Francis Xavier Knott, S.J., Humanities Center, the stately Tudor house at the center of campus served a different mission.

In the aftermath of World War I, the mansion was transformed from an unoccupied private residence into the Red Cross Institute for the Blind. There, soldiers who had lost their sight in combat received training intended to prepare them for civilian life. A 1921 *Baltimore Sun* article noted that nearly half of all U.S. soldiers blinded during the war received treatment at the building, then known as Evergreen, Jr.

Inside the country's first veterans' blind rehabilitation center, veterans learned practical skills such as writing and reading Braille. Other facilities on the property included spaces for recreational activities like swimming and dancing. Instruction emphasized personal care and independence, and was designed to support soldiers through a monumental physical and mental transformation.

"One of the most innovative aspects of the Evergreen rehabilitation program was the encouragement of wives and family members to participate in the therapy their loved ones received," wrote Gregory L. Goodrich, Ph.D., and Tom Zampieri, Ph.D., in the *Journal of Visual Impairment & Blindness*. The property's size and layout made it well suited for these purposes: former bedrooms were reconfigured for family living, while shared rooms were used for classes and social gatherings.

By 1925, the Red Cross Institute had concluded its work at Evergreen, Jr. Loyola, which had purchased the mansion from the Garrett family, was ready to use the site for its growing campus.

Though the Humanities Center's time as a rehabilitation center was brief, it served a significant role in the national recovery effort.

# Family

## ALUMNI PROFILE

### TRUE COLORS

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS  
PRESIDENT AND CEO CREDITS  
LOYOLA WITH HELPING SHAPE  
HER LEADERSHIP STYLE

BY GEORGE P. MATYSEK JR., '94

While in Loyola's MBA program nearly 20 years ago, **Heidi Petz, MBA '08**, and her teammates faced a high-pressure simulation: manage a manufacturing business in real time, make pricing and production decisions, and compete against other teams—all under tight deadlines.

"You were constantly making decisions with incomplete or imperfect information," Petz recalled, "but you had to rely on each other to talk through strategy, scenario planning, and ruling things out."

Team members needed to be in alignment "so that when we hit the button, which is making a decision in the real world of spending capital, we weren't going to look back."

Today, as chair, president, and CEO of The Sherwin-Williams Company, Petz makes those same kinds of decisions on a regular basis—but now the stakes impact 65,000 employees globally.

The Ohio native is the first woman to lead the global paint and coatings company, overseeing operations in more than 120 countries from the corporate headquarters in Cleveland. She credits Loyola's team-based approach with helping to shape how she leads.

"Learning how to lean on each other's strengths was on full display because you had to know what your strengths were to contribute to the team, but maybe even more importantly, what you were not good at—where you could lean on other people so the team could have the best possible impact," said Petz, who was a junior executive at Newell Rubbermaid while enrolled at Loyola.



On an MBA immersion trip to China, Petz toured factories in Shenzhen, Guangzhou, and Beijing, meeting business leaders and learning cross-cultural practices. Inside a jeans factory, she watched workers operate at a scale and speed she had only read about in textbooks.

"You go from textbook to real world in nanoseconds," said Petz, who earned a bachelor's degree in leadership and business from the University of Richmond.

Petz joined the paint industry at Valspar in 2013, then came to Sherwin-Williams through its 2017 acquisition of Valspar. She became CEO in 2024 and chair in 2025, having previously served as president of the company's Consumer Brands Group, president of the Paint Stores Group, and then president and COO of the company.

Prior to her tenure at Valspar and Sherwin-Williams, Petz served in leadership roles at varying levels at Newell Rubbermaid, Target Corporation, and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

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Sherwin-Williams will celebrate its 160-year anniversary this year, and Petz is the company's 10th CEO, leading an organization that is most known for its 4,800 paint stores, but also produces premium industrial coatings protecting appliances, furniture, flooring, airports, and stadiums worldwide, among many other surfaces that consumers see and use every single day.

On the day of her interview for *Loyola* magazine, Petz happened to be wearing universal khaki, the earthy, neutral shade the company named its 2026 color of the year. Choosing the right colors matters deeply to customers, she said, and the company dedicates trend teams to tracking what shades and textures will be popular years in advance.

"Color needs to be precise and consistent," she said. "Color signals so many different emotions for customers. So, getting that right is a very important part of how we stay current."

While she is the first woman to lead Sherwin-Williams, that's not something she thinks much about.

"My worldview is that of an athlete," explained Petz. "I expect challenges that have no bearing on gender. I expect business challenges, market challenges, and competitive challenges."

Reflecting on her time as a student, Petz encouraged current Loyola students to "bet on themselves," know they "don't have to have it all figured out on day one," and consider a career at Sherwin-Williams.

"Surround yourself with people who will be willing to be part of your journey," she said, "and be willing to be part of their journey and help them in return." 📍

COURTESY OF HEIDI PETZ, MBA '08

## Family Bound by Hounds



LOYOLA.EDU/  
GREYHOUND-AUTHORS

Find a list of recent titles by Greyhound authors.

### AUTHOR Q&A: L'OREAL THOMPSON PAYTON, '08

STOP WAITING FOR PERFECT

BY MADISON BORIS, '14, MBA '26

L'Oreal Thompson Payton, '08, is an award-winning journalist, author, keynote speaker, and communications executive. Her debut book, *Stop Waiting for Perfect: Step Out of Your Comfort Zone and Into Your Power*, invites readers to seek growth rather than perfection. Thompson Payton has also opened Zora's Place, the first Black feminist bookstore in Evanston, Illinois.



COURTESY OF L'OREAL THOMPSON PAYTON, '08

#### Your book encourages readers to stop waiting for the "perfect moment." When did you realize perfectionism was holding you back?

While I was writing it, I came across a tweet that said, "You can edit bad, but you can't edit nothing." That simple statement helped me realize I needed to get out of my own way. I was so focused on submitting a "perfect first draft," when my real job was simply to put words on the page and let my editor help make them better. Perfection does not exist, and chasing it was costing me time, energy, and joy.

#### Is there one mindset shift or daily practice that helped you move past self-doubt and imposter syndrome?

The biggest shift was realizing that my goal is not to eliminate self-doubt, but to shorten the time I spend doubting and act anyway. I practiced starting projects before I felt ready and letting things be "good enough," instead of perfect.

#### How did Loyola shape you as a storyteller and advocate?

My communication major enabled me to explore the meaning and power of storytelling, and I had several mentors along the way. **Kevin Atticks, DCD**,

my journalism professor and advisor, always showed up for me, while **Elizabeth Leik's** creative writing class pushed me to grow in new ways. **John McIntyre's** editing course was tough but formative, and I later had the privilege of working with him at *The Baltimore Sun*. Studying abroad in Spain and Italy with the late **Andrew Ciafalo** helped me hone the storytelling skills I still use today. Working at *The Greyhound* laid the foundation for my career; and my experiences with ALANA and the Black Student Association helped me embrace my identity and form lifelong friendships.

#### What excites you most about the future of Zora's Place?

I dream of a literary magazine featuring Black women and femme writers, a rotating artist residency, and a writing fellowship. I want programming like creative retreats and workshops for young writers. At its core, Zora's Place is about belonging. I want Black women and girls to feel seen, heard, and deeply loved when they walk through our doors.

#### What's next for you?

My first children's book, *Amanda Gorman: Poet and Activist*, is out now, and my next book, *Violet Goes Voting*, arrives this September. I'm also working toward the spring 2027 release of my memoir, *Infertile Black Girl*. 📍

### OTHER LOYOLA AUTHORS RECENTLY PUBLISHED

*Les Réfugiés Français du Maryland: J'avais Huit Ans*, Author: **André Colombat, Ph.D.**, professor of French

*Critical AI in K-12 Classrooms*, Author: **Marie Heath, Ed.D.**, education specialties department chair and associate professor of learning design and technology

*The Johns Hopkins Guide to Everyday Psychological First Aid: A Practical Approach to Helping Family, Friends, Coworkers, and Others Cope*, Co-author: **Jeffrey M. Lating, Ph.D.**, professor of psychology

*Security Ethics: Commerce and Crime in a Polycentric World*, Author: **Graham McAleer, Ph.D.**, professor of philosophy

*It Is What It Is*, Author: **Maura Farley McGee, '92**

*Baseball's Most Outrageous Promotions: From Wedlock and Headlock Day to Disco Demolition Night*, Author: **Joseph Natalicchio, M.Ed. '09**

*Minority Identities in Nigeria: Contesting and Claiming Citizenship in the 20th Century*, Author: **Oghenetoja Okoh, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history

*Unnatural Death*, Author: **Philip Porter, MTS '15**

*Tell Me This: Voices, Stories, and Scholarship of Belonging*, Co-author: **Brianne Higgins Roos, Ed.D., '01, M.S. '04**, assistant professor of speech-language-hearing sciences

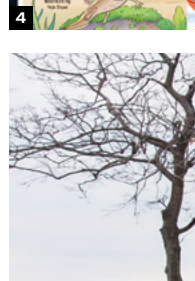
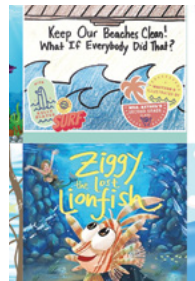
*Preparing Antiracist ESOL Professionals: Linguistic Equity for Multilingual Learners*, Co-author: **Karen Terrell, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of mathematics education

*The Transformative Power of Small Groups: A 7-Step Guide for Building Vibrant Catholic Communities*, Authors: **Rev. Michael White, '80**, and **Tom Corcoran, '96**

# Family Class Notes

## SHARE YOUR NEWS

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



## 1979

**1 Raymond G. Truitt** began his one-year term as president of the American College of Real Estate Lawyers on Jan. 1, 2026.

## 1982

**Susan (Murnane) Dyckman** has been appointed as the new director of development for the Tigger Stavola Foundation.

## 1990

**2 Robert G. Pollokoff, MBA,** has been named chairman and CEO of Fedder Management Corporation.

## 1991

**Carl Robbins, M.S.,** received the 2025 Jerilyn Ross Clinician Advocate Award from the Anxiety and Depression Association of America.

## 1993

**Daniel Carmody** joined the private wealth team of Sterlington PLLC in its Philadelphia office.

## 1999

**Michael Perone's** book *The Electric God and Other Shorts* received the 2025 NYC Big Book Award for Distinguished Favorite in the category of Short Stories and the Fall 2025 PenCraft Award in the category of Short Stories/Anthologies.

## 2001

**Chadd K. Kraus, D.O., Dr.PH., CPE, FACEP,** was elected as chair of the Board of Directors of the American College of Emergency Physicians and inducted as a fellow of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

## 2002

**Timothy Fisher** was promoted to partner of the law firm, Brockstedt Mandalas Federico, LLC.

## 2006

**Greg Sileo** was promoted to a senior policy advisor at Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck.

## 2007

**Jen Zimmerman** was elected and sworn in as a member of the Board of Education in Metuchen, New Jersey.

## 2012

**3 Katie Bigley** won *Wheel of Fortune*, walking away with \$93,000 after solving the Bonus Round.

## 2013

**6 Ryan and Mary (Torrance) Devlin, '14,** welcomed their son, Aidan William Devlin, on Feb. 21, 2025.



## 2014

**5 Nicole Lacouture** married Gabe Stuart-Sikowitz on Sept. 12, 2025, at Clifton Mansion in Baltimore.

## 2015

**8 LCDR Chris DelBello** recognized Loyola by taking a photo with a Loyola flag while in port at Tromso, Norway, on the submarine he serves on as weapons officer.

## 2017

**4 Tasha Haight, '17, MBA '18,** launched a monthly book subscription service featuring small/independent authors in January 2026. The Ocean Guardian Book Box features environmental education books for elementary-aged children.

## 2019

**Tamar Barsamian and Thomas O'Brien, '20,** were married on July 19, 2025, by the Rev. John Murray, S.J., in Cape Neddick, Maine.

## 2021

**7 James Cardillo and Elizabeth Ryan, '20, M.S. '22,** were married on Nov. 22, 2025, in Annapolis, with the Rev. Timothy Brown, S.J., concelebrating.

**Isabella Therien and Will Fries** were married on June 27, 2025, in West Orange, New Jersey.

## 2022

**Nicholas Kauffman and Madison Ripp** were married in Loyola's Alumni Memorial Chapel on Oct. 18, 2025. Alumni in the wedding party were **Julia Cirincione Moyer, '22; Madison Ross, '22; Reilly O'Hare, '22; Lauren Kauffman, '24; Tommy Moyer, '22; and Carter Reilly, '22.**

## Family In Memoriam



**Gregory N. Derry, Ph.D.,** professor emeritus of physics, passed away on Sept. 7, 2025. He was 73. Derry earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Pennsylvania State University prior to teaching at the University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill. After joining the faculty at Loyola in 1986, Derry served in a number of roles, including assistant professor of physics, professor, physics department chair, chair of the curriculum committee, and long-time member of the National Fellowships Committee. His research interests focused on the study of experimental surface physics, though he was also interested in the history and philosophy of science—and was a longtime co-director of the University's annual Cosmos and Creation conference. He remained actively involved with Loyola's academic community after he retired in 2020. Derry's survivors include his wife, Paula Derry, Ph.D., and daughter, **Rebecca E. Derry, MAT '14.**



The **Rev. James F. Salmon, S.J.,** affiliate associate professor emeritus of chemistry and former trustee, passed away on Aug. 17, 2025, at the age of 100. A native of Long Island, New York, he served in the U.S. Navy

during World War II upon high school graduation. Fr. Salmon later entered the Society of Jesus in 1950. Remembered for his lifelong devotion to learning and faith, he earned several academic degrees including a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1964. While part of Loyola's faculty, he founded the annual Cosmos and Creation conference. In 2015, he received Loyola's John Henry Newman Medal for his innovative approach to the interdisciplinary study of science and religion. Additionally, during his career, he served as headmaster of Loyola Blakefield and as chaplain, professor, rector, treasurer, and more for a variety of other Jesuit and religious institutions.



**Roger A. Waesche, Jr., '76, MBA '84,** a member of Loyola's Board of Trustees since 2018, passed away on Jan. 8, 2026. He was 72. A double graduate of Loyola, Waesche served on the Board's Audit/Finance/Physical Plant,

Investment, and Executive Compensation committees, sharing expertise from his time at Corporate Office Properties Trust, where he was formerly the president and chief executive officer. At Loyola, Waesche also served on the Board of Sponsors for the Sellinger School of Business and Management. Waesche and his family established the Waesche Family Scholarship. An expert in commercial real estate, Waesche served on boards throughout his career, including for the Economic Alliance of Greater Baltimore, Loyola Blakefield, the Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Sheppard Pratt Health System. His survivors include his wife, **Xandy, '87, MBA '91,** and his four sons, including **Cole,** who graduated from Loyola in 2018.

Bill Temmink, '47, November 2025

Ed Cochran, '49, November 2025

George Phillips, '50, July 2025

George Strohecker, '52, July 2025

Joe Blair, '53, December 2025

Simon Offit, '53, October 2025

Lou Reinhardt, '53, December 2025

Jay Jordan, '55, November 2025

Carroll Gunkel, '58, July 2025

Dick Jones, '59, July 2025

John Caldwell, '60, July 2025

Patrick Perry, '60, August 2025

Gerry Sibiski, '61, November 2025

Bill Lampieri, '62, July 2025

Lew Smith, '62, July 2025

Bernie Zetlmeisl, '63, August 2025

Kenneth P. Dawson, '64, M.Ed. '67, February 2025

Camille (Faith) Marx, MSA '66, M.Ed. '71, August 2025

Dan Whalen, '66, November 2025

Joe Dannenfelser, '67, August 2025

Art Smit, '69, July 2025

William Nugent, '70, August 2025

Daniel Dregier, '71, July 2025

James Preston, M.Ed. '71, July 2025

Chuck Dailey, '72, November 2025

Lawrence Schiavi, '72, November 2025

Reid Hosford, '73, November 2025

Leonard Shoemaker, '74, July 2025

Richard Nevin, '75, September 2025

Annie (Gurley) Sanner, '75, October 2025

Rev. Robert Wicht, SDS, M.A. '75, July 2025

Jane (Roeder) Anderson, MMS '77, September 2025

Malcolm McKnight, MBA '83, October 2025

Constance (Whittington) Helms, MBA '84, November 2025

Caroline Goldsmith, M.S. '86, August 2025

Dorris (Smith) McElroy, M.S. '86, August 2025

David Mercadante, '90, December 2025

Kimberly (Andersen) Lechner, '91, September 2025

Carol (Hennegan) Murray, M.Ed. '92, October 2025

Joanne (Passano) Bartlett, M.Ed. '94, November 2025

Earl Christian, '94, September 2025

Patrick Ervin, '95, December 2025

Keri (Selepak) Kolbay, '97, July 2025

Kathleen Shannon, MBA '98, August 2025

Christine (Cameron) Dulac, MBA '99, August 2025

Anne Marie McEvoy-Glackin, M.Ed. '00, August 2025

James Carlock, MES '04, October 2025

Matty Basirico, '06, July 2025

James May, MBA '07, September 2025

GREYHOUND GURU

## HOW TO GROW A GARDEN

PETER BIENEMAN, '90, MASTER LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

BY CLAIRE PERKINS, '23



Peter Bieneman, '90, is the longtime general manager of Green Fields Nursery & Landscaping Company, a Baltimore-based garden center near the Evergreen campus. With a B.A. in Communication from Loyola and a Master of Landscape Architecture from Morgan State University, Bieneman brings expertise in sustainable planting and thoughtful design.

Here are his five tips for growing a successful garden and harvesting your favorite produce. (Bieneman's top pick? Tomatoes.)

### TIP 1 Plan

The most common mistake in gardening is a lack of planning. Before breaking ground, assess existing plants and any obstructions to sunlight. Measure where your garden will be and decide what you will plant. Determine what your soil needs—using an at-home test kit or working with a lab—to improve its health, whether it's fertilizer, compost, or nutrients.

### TIP 2 Purchase

Arrive at your gardening center with measurements, photos of your yard, and your planting list. Especially if you're planting produce, purchase organic soils and fertilizers. When in doubt, ask questions of the gardening experts!

### TIP 3 Prep

Stake out your garden with string, remove sod or debris, and amend the soil. If you don't know what your soil needs, your plants will tell you. For example, a lack of blooms or fruit indicates a phosphorus deficiency.

### TIP 4 Plant

Maximize your harvest through succession planting—switching crops seasonally. Plant cold-weather crops (leafy greens and root vegetables) in early spring and summer crops (fruiting vegetables and herbs) in May. Rotate crops to maintain healthy soil and manage pests.

### TIP 5 Preserve

Like anything in life, things do their best when they are cared for. Maintenance is the final, ongoing step. Water your plants, remove disease or damage, and of course, enrich your soil with nutrients as needed.

BONDARILLIA, COURTESY OF PETER BIENEMAN, '90.

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...inspires students to learn, lead, and serve in our diverse and changing world.

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#### TOP PRODUCER OF FULBRIGHTS

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Loyola was recently named among the U.S. colleges and universities that produced the most Fulbright students for the 2025-2026 academic year. Loyola, which has received this recognition three times before, is among the 11 Top Producing Institutions for Fulbright U.S. Students in the Master's classification. Three Loyola graduates received Fulbright awards in 2025 and traveled to Spain, Bulgaria, and the Czech Republic.

The Fulbright Program is the U.S. government's flagship international education exchange program for study, teaching, and research.

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Learn more about Loyola's Fulbright accolade.

