

# THE HUMANITIES

LCAS ANNUAL REPORT \\ ACADEMIC YEAR 2021-22



**LOYOLA**  
UNIVERSITY MARYLAND

Loyola College of  
Arts and Sciences

**MORE THAN READY.  
LOYOLA READY.**



**9**

Departments

**18**

Academic Majors

**2**

Graduate Programs

**129**

Full-Time Faculty

**506**

Students Majoring  
in the Humanities

**265**

Students Minorng  
in the Humanities

NOT INCLUDING INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS

**33**

Students in For-Credit  
Internships

**90**

Messina Sections

**9**

Music Events

**4**

Theatre  
Productions

**5**

Julio Art Gallery  
Exhibits

# Letter from the Associate Dean



The past few years have been challenging for students and teachers, most obviously because of the pandemic, but news reports have also highlighted particular challenges facing humanities departments across the nation, including declining enrollments in humanities classes and fewer majors. Loyola has not been immune to such shifts. Nevertheless, the humanities at Loyola have remained strong. Indeed, they remain central to Loyola's core curriculum and its mission as a Jesuit university. This past year, our students and faculty continued to do outstanding work exploring the human experience in all its complexity. Faculty taught some 90 sections of our first-year Messina seminars and 45 sections that fulfilled the diversity requirement; oversaw 33 student internships; and offered 63 service-learning courses, partnering with a variety of groups and organizations in Baltimore and beyond. Departments hosted dozens of speakers on a range of topics from slavery to science fiction. Many talks and events also engaged with pressing topics of the day, including sessions on the position of women in Afghanistan, past and present; the politics of covering the White House; and an on-the-ground discussion with a Ukrainian scholar forced to flee to Poland in the wake of Russia's invasion. Faculty across the humanities remained prolific in their scholarly

output and contributions to their respective fields, and several received prestigious awards from national organizations. Students continued to embrace the opportunities in the humanities: conducting research, acting, performing, creating works of art, exploring great works of literature in multiple languages, and confronting the deep ethical issues that define modern life. Most importantly, beyond their presence in the classrooms, they brought the campus back to life again.

Lastly, let me say thanks to Peggy O'Neill, Ph.D., who has served as associate dean for the humanities for the past four years. Peggy has been tireless in advocating for and promoting the humanities at Loyola, and she has launched a number of initiatives that we will build on in the coming year. We are very grateful for all her work, wish her well on sabbatical, and look forward to welcoming her back to the writing department faculty next fall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Mulcahy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the last letter.

Matthew Mulcahy, Ph.D.  
Professor of History

## Highlights from the Humanities

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The **writing department's** Modern Masters series always brings exciting writers to campus, but this year's group was especially notable and included Harvard University historian Tiya Miles, who read from *All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family's Keepsake* (which won the 2022 National Book Award for Nonfiction), and Loyola alumnus Ed Ashton, whose new science fiction novel *Mickey7* has been optioned as a movie starring Robert Pattinson and directed by Bong Joon-ho.

In March, **Alan Roe, Ph.D.**, in the **history department** hosted a live Zoom lecture featuring Dr. Anna Olenenko, who fled Ukraine to Poland in the wake

of the Russian invasion. Dr. Olenenko fielded questions from students during the session. In conjunction with this year's Messina text, *The Master Plan: My Journey from a Life of Prison to a Life of Purpose* by Baltimore author Chris Wilson, the **fine arts department** exhibited "Allegory, Artist, & Society" featuring Wilson's painting, and hosted a reception for the author/artist in the Julio Fine Arts Gallery.

Finally, **Lisa Zimmerelli (writing)** and **David Carey (history)** secured an Aperio grant from the Center to conduct parallel classes this coming fall exploring Loyola's links to slavery. The courses will coordinate with the larger Presidential

Task Force examining this important topic. Aided by **Jennifer Kinniff** at the Loyola Notre-Dame Library and University Archives, work began this past summer as a small group of student researchers began looking at documents held in the archives at Georgetown University and Loyola and visiting an archaeological dig at St. Francis Xavier Church and Newtowne Manor House in St. Mary's County. The students in both classes will produce a volume to be published by Loyola's Apprentice House Press.



# Center for the Humanities

**M**elissa Girard, Ph.D., in the English department paired with Amy Wolfson, Ph.D., in the psychology department to offer a new interdisciplinary course on “Gender, Culture, and Madness.”

The **theology department** redesigned their common spaces and purchased several works of global Christian art. Each painting has a placard with information and questions to consider about the work, with the aim of fostering conversation among visitors. The **communication department** established a new diversity

course requirement *within* their major, distinct from the University requirement. They also coordinated a campus-wide teaching workshop exploring classroom conversations on race.

Several departments including **philosophy** and **modern languages** launched a student ambassador program that has upper-level majors leading clubs, organizing discussions for other students, and helping present information to prospective students at open houses.

Highlighting how some issues remain timeless, the **classics department** hosted the lecture “In Capillis Veritas: A Roman

Bad Hair Day” by forensic hair archaeologist Janet Stephens.

Finally, the Karson Center headed by **Karsonya Wise Whitehead, Ph.D., (communication)** celebrated its one-year anniversary with a plenary conversation between Dr. White and author D. Watkins. The institute received a \$25,000 grant from the PNC Foundation to support its work. Additionally, Dr. Whitehead received the Vernon Jarrett Medal for Journalistic Excellence.

## Faculty Achievements

**Giuliana Risso-Roberto** and **Leslie Zarker Morgan** in **modern languages** won a grant totaling 20,000 euros from the Italian government (MAECI, the *Ministero degli Affari Esteri*) to support the teaching of the Italian language at Loyola. **Mas Biswas, Ph.D., in communication** received the 2022 Ginger Rudeseal Carter Miller Teacher of the Year Award from the Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication. And colleague **Neil Alperstein, Ph.D.,** received a \$50,000 grant from the Vaccine Grant Fund for work on social media and its impacts on vaccine messaging during the pandemic.

In **fine arts**, **Dan Schlapbach’s, MFA,** “Polaris” was one of five artworks (out of 89) recognized for the Juror’s Choice Award at the “Small Wonders” exhibition

at the Maryland Federation of Arts Circle Gallery in Annapolis. **Natka Bianchini** won a \$2,000 grant from the Gordon Center for Performing Arts to produce the play *Us/Them* in August 2022.

Creative and scholarly works by humanities faculty published in the past year included the following: **Matthew Mulcahy, Ph.D., (history)** coauthor of *Sea and Land: An Environmental History of the Caribbean*. **Andrew Ross, Ph.D., (history)** received Honorable Mention for the Eugen Weber Book Prize from the American Historical Association for his book *Public City/Public Sex*.

In addition, theologians published two new books this past year: **Fritz Bauerschmidt’s, Ph.D.,** *How Beautiful the Word Could Be: Christian Reflections*

*on the Everyday* and **Jill Snodgrass’s** *Moral Injury After Abortion: Exploring Psychospiritual Impact on Catholic Women* (co-author). **Richard Boothby, Ph.D., in philosophy** published two books, including *Blown Away: Refinding Life After My Son’s Suicide*, while **Meghan Page** published an article on “The Role of Historical Science in Methodological Actualism” in the journal *Philosophy of Science*. Finally, **Lucas Southworth (writing)** was awarded a prestigious Pushcart Prize for his short story “The Crying Room.”



# Thank you to our generous donors

The generosity of the alumni, parents, family, and friends of Loyola College of Arts and Sciences helps bolster the amazing work accomplished by the LCAS faculty, staff, and students. Last year, the LCAS community memorialized a beloved faculty member, Angela Russell Christman, by creating an endowed fund that will support programs and initiatives reflective of Christman's academic pursuits. More than \$75,000 was raised to honor her memory. This story represents one of the many that reflect the benevolence of our amazing community. We are so grateful for the philanthropic commitment made by all our donors.

[loyola.edu/loyola-college](https://loyola.edu/loyola-college)

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