

# loyno

## Making Headlines

The School of Mass Communication is innovating, educating, and winning nonstop awards

Human cannonball  
**Nicole Sanders '07**  
shoots for the stars

### A Community in Service

Alumni rally to help  
Baton Rouge flood victims



FALL 2016

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS MAGAZINE

# loyno



10

COVER STORY

## Current Affairs

Loyola's School of Mass Communication continues a tradition of excellence while preparing a new generation of innovators for careers that may not even exist yet.

18

Nicole Sanders '07

## Cannonized

Nitro Nicole, St. Ignatius, and the secret history of Jesuit cannonballs



- 2 President's Message
- 3 Know & Tell
- 4 News Roundup
- 6 Creative Class
- 7 The Loyola Effect
- 8 Local Flavor
- 9 On the Scene
- 17 Pay It Forward
- 28 United We Stand
- 30 On a Mission

52

## Graped Crusader

Bob Almeida '72



24

## A Flood of Caring

Loyola alumni heed the call to service to help our neighbors in flood-devastated Baton Rouge.



- 32 Institutional Advancement
- 34 Alumni Events
- 37 Alumni Profile: Brandi Boatner '05
- 38 Class Notes
- 43 Alumni Profile: Dr. Anthony Recasner '82
- 44 Alumni Profile: Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll '66
- 45 Do This
- 47 Bon Temps
- 48 Out in the Streets
- 50 Community Engagement
- 51 Then & Now



Dear readers,

THIS FALL, WE WELCOMED THE CLASS OF 2020, one of our academically strongest classes of first-year students ever. This class is both culturally and spiritually diverse. Above all, this class is a class of change-makers, people for others who want to engage in the community and make the world a better place.

Like you, they arrived at the right address. For today at Loyola University New Orleans, a spirit of innovation and creativity abounds. Our commitment to social justice has taken on new meaning, as you'll see in nearly every story in these pages. And every day, we are working hard to make meaningful and positive change, both on campus and in the greater community. If you want to "set the world on fire," this is the place.

Consider our prize-winning School of Mass Communication, where students have received more than 150 prizes in the past two years alone. Cutting-edge technology, leading industry practitioners, a solid ethical foundation, and on-your-feet professional training ensure our students adapt skillfully to a radically changing landscape. And they do, securing jobs in traditional media outlets as well as many other places where digitally savvy communicators are in-demand.

Or witness our service to others, a long and lasting hallmark of Loyola. Our alumni and students from across the region have helped residents of Baton Rouge to rebuild their homes—and their lives—in the wake of historic flooding.

You'll often hear me talk about *cura personalis*, or education of the whole person—mind, body, and soul. As a university, we believe that a Loyola education extends far beyond St. Charles Avenue—and that our mission is not just about educating students but also about transforming graduates who are ready for life.

Eyes forward, we look toward the coming year filled with promise and discovery. We hope to see you all thriving in your respective communities. And as we remind our students: Make that change. Make a difference. Aim to do more, to be more, and to be a catalyst. And remember: Loyola is always here for you.

The Rev. Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.  
University President

# loyno

**FALL 2016**  
**Vol. 26, No. 2**

**Editor**  
Eve C. Peyton

**Designers**  
Allee Parker  
Hollie Garrison  
Linda Lien-Ribardi

**University Photographer**  
Kyle Encar

**Contributing Photographer**  
Marianna Massey

**Contributing Writers**  
Angelique Dyer '11  
Fritz Esker '00  
Autumn Cafiero Giusti '00  
Will Glass  
Lauren LaBorde '09  
Sarah Ravits  
Warner B. Thompson, J.D. '19

**Director of Creative Services**  
Allee Parker

**Associate Director of Public Affairs**  
Patricia Murret

**Assistant Vice President  
for Alumni Engagement**  
Laurie Eichelberger Leiva '03

**Assistant Vice President  
for Donor Relations**  
Claire Simno '72

**Vice President for Institutional Advancement**  
Chris Wiseman '88

**Vice President for  
Marketing and Communications**  
Laura F. Kurzu

**University President**  
The Rev. Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.

LOYNO Magazine is published twice per year.  
View online at [loyno.edu/magazine](http://loyno.edu/magazine)

Send address changes to:  
Loyola University New Orleans  
Office of Marketing + Communications  
6363 St. Charles Avenue, Box 212  
New Orleans, LA 70118

Correspondence may be sent to:  
Editor, LOYNO Magazine  
6363 St. Charles Avenue, Box 212  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
phone (504) 861-5859  
fax (504) 861-5784  
email [magazine@loyno.edu](mailto:magazine@loyno.edu)

Submissions of stories and photographs are welcome.

Loyola University New Orleans has fully supported and fostered in its educational programs, admissions, employment practices, and in the activities it operates the policy of not discriminating on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex/gender, or sexual orientation. This policy is in compliance with all applicable federal regulations and guidelines.

# know & tell

Loyno news worth howling about



As Loyola's Theatre Department started the academic year under the new leadership of Dr. Laura Hope, the critically acclaimed regional theatre company,

## **Southern Repertory Theatre,**

established a two-year residency on our campus. Loyola will be putting on a blend of brand-new plays and reimagined classics for the 2016-2017 season!

Beau, a 5-year-old golden retriever, is the university's "comfort dog," working with the University Honors Program and Monroe Library by providing a furry, friendly face to stressed and overwhelmed students, faculty, and staff!

**Dog may be man's best friend, but Beau is Loyola's best friend!**



Encore! Internationally acclaimed violinist and Loyola's first Resident Artist in Music

## **Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg** returned to Loyola this fall.

In just one year, she has helped to elevate the quality of the School of Music's strings program, working closely with our students and faculty and playing alongside them. Through her residency, she has taught students in the Loyola Chamber Orchestra to perform as a conductor-less ensemble—a technique she has helped refine over the years.



## **DEAUX**

Loyola Dining Services introduced its first original restaurant, Deaux. Conveniently located in Carrollton Hall and open late nights, Deaux is quickly becoming everyone's favorite pizzeria, serving salads, made-to-order pizza, chicken wings, calzones, and desserts.

Once again,

**U.S. News and World Report named Loyola as one of the nation's top colleges**

with elite rankings across several major higher education categories! Our rankings include:

#4

for diversity  
in the region

150<sup>TOP</sup>

online  
educational  
programs

#12

in the South  
for Best Value

50<sup>TOP</sup>

online graduate  
nursing program

#184

among 488  
undergraduate  
business programs

10<sup>TOP</sup>

Best Regional  
Universities  
of the South

# news roundup

## Loyno Welcomes Interim Chief Diversity Officer

Dr. Liv Newman will advise on diversity, inclusion practices



In December 2015, Loyola launched a campus-wide search for an interim chief diversity officer. This position reports directly to Loyola University President the Rev. Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., to help provide clear leadership over the development and implementation of diversity and inclusion practices at Loyola.

"Our goal," Wildes said in an email to the Loyola community, "is to build and improve upon a culture that is consistent with our values as a Jesuit university."

The Loyola University New Orleans Affirmative Action and Diversity Committee, composed of students, faculty, administrators, and staff, selected Dr. Liv Newman to fill the role of interim chief diversity officer.

A strong and experienced leader, Newman received a bachelor of arts in history from Emory University, followed by a master of arts in education policy from Stanford University. After the completion of her master's degree at Stanford, she taught in the New Orleans public school system. Upon returning

to graduate school, she completed a master's degree in sociology at the University of Florida, studying with the eminent race scholar Dr. Joe Feagin, and in 2014, she completed a dissertation titled *Race and Class in the Twenty-First Century: The Lived Experiences of Professional-class Black Americans*.

Her research interests center around inequality generally and racial and class inequality specifically. She also has an interest in the way education plays a role in perpetuating inequalities, and her teaching interests reflect her commitment to exploring the various areas of inequality within the United States context. She has taught numerous classes related to race and ethnicity, class, gender, and education.

"In her role as interim CDO, Newman will work to create a strategic plan that integrates ongoing diversity and inclusiveness efforts from all ends of campus," Wildes said. "These initiatives all have a positive impact on our educational mission, and Dr. Newman will serve as their champion."

## Swimming to Success

The Wolf Pack's new swim team makes a splash at its first meet

Loyola dove into a new era on Sept. 30 as the Loyola University New Orleans swim team competed in its first-ever competition since becoming a program last year.

The Wolf Pack made the trip to Shreveport to face off against Centenary College of Louisiana and Hendrix College in a double-dual meet hosted by Centenary.

The men's team brought the first victory in program history home with them, defeating Hendrix College 101-72, before falling to the host Gents 77-104.

On the women's side, roster numbers proved to be Loyola's toughest competition as the Wolf Pack lost to both Centenary (77-81) and Hendrix (77-94) despite winning every event they swam.

On Oct. 8 the Loyola swim team hosted its inaugural home meet against Louisiana State University.

Amongst deafening cheers from both factions of supporters, Loyola recorded a handful of personal-best times between the two programs.

After the Oct. 8 meet, freshman duo Warren Massimini and Paige Carter were named the Mid-South Conference Swimmers of the Week.

Massimini collected three top-three finishes against the Tigers, and his time of 1:46.25 in the 200 free was not only a personal best and a NAIA 'A' standard but also the fastest time in the NAIA this season.

Earning swimmer of the week honors for the second consecutive week, Carter continued to impress at the home event. Her time (1:57.48) in the 200 free was a NAIA 'A' standard and is the fastest time in the NAIA this year. She also posted a personal-best time of 5:21.90 in the 500 free—a NAIA 'A' standard and the second-fastest time in the NAIA this season.



# Bright Light

Fulbright Scholar Julie Morel joins us from France

Loyola welcomes Julie Morel to the Department of Design for the 2016-2017 academic year.

Morel describes herself as “an interdisciplinary graphic designer and artist,” but her wide array of interests and talents burst the seams of that title.

The variety of media in which she works are supplemented by interest in things like storytelling, translation, computer code, meta-language, and score-writing. Her body of work, in total, intends to explore textuality, to question the human cultural relation to language.

She’s exhibited in France and abroad, and she consistently makes time for fieldwork in areas

like sociology, cartography, and environmental studies.

“Using her knowledge of artist networks, archives, and the Internet,” her CV states, “Julie organizes exhibitions and events on topics such as artists’ books, feminism in creative fields, collaborative design as a social- and environmental-based practice.

“Most recently, she was an artist in residence at la Gaîté Lyrique (Digital Center in Paris) in the Open Laboratory program, where she curated a number of conferences and events such as the relation between science fiction novels and visual arts, graphic design and computer code, and information design and archives.”

But now, she leaves the City of Light to join us in the Big Easy.

A long way from home, sure, but as a Fulbright Scholar herself, we believe she’ll fit right in. As you know, last year our university was named one of the top Fulbright producers in the nation by the U.S. State Department and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

And the new Monroe Hall should ease her transition with its state-of-the-art design studios, labs, and other uniquely tailored spaces that complement Loyola’s newly launched design program, the only four-year undergraduate degree program of its kind in the city.

Here, Morel may be able use her experience to affect some of our

program’s collaborative learning experiences, which bring students into the community for service-learning projects, by pushing our students toward people and fields they might not have considered otherwise.

For instance, her CV states that from “2008 to 2012, she co-organized and co-curated The Upgrade! Paris, a series of monthly conferences focusing on culture and technology, creating opportunities for encounters between designers, artists, and engineers.”

We can’t wait to see what an accomplished and forward-thinking artist can do at Loyola University New Orleans.



# SOLVING THE MYSTERIES OF THE UNIVERSE

Cosmology blends physics with creative thinking to tackle the big questions, taking “think globally” to a whole new level.

BY FRITZ ESKER '00

Have you ever wondered where the galaxies come from? Or why the night sky looks like it does? Or at what rate the universe is expanding? If these big questions are fun for you to ponder, you'd probably enjoy Associate Professor Dr. Tirthabir Biswas' cosmology class at Loyola.

Reducing cosmology to a simple definition is not easy, but it is best defined as a study of the history of the universe.

“Cosmology helps you quantitatively track the universe as it evolves,” Biswas says.

Creating a cosmology elective appealed to Biswas on multiple levels. As a theoretical cosmologist, it's obviously close to his heart, but that wasn't the only reason. He wanted to teach a class where students used programming to solve physics problems. In the work force and in graduate school, students need to learn how to use programming and computers in research. The class gave Biswas the

opportunity to impart these skills to his students while teaching a subject he loves.

Some of the mysteries Biswas addresses in the cosmology class include dark matter and dark energy. Dark matter is the glue that holds galaxies together. It can't be seen, but scientists know it's there. Galaxies are clusters of stars stuck together. A force needs to hold them together. If such a force did not exist, stars in the galaxy could drift apart or never form in the first place.

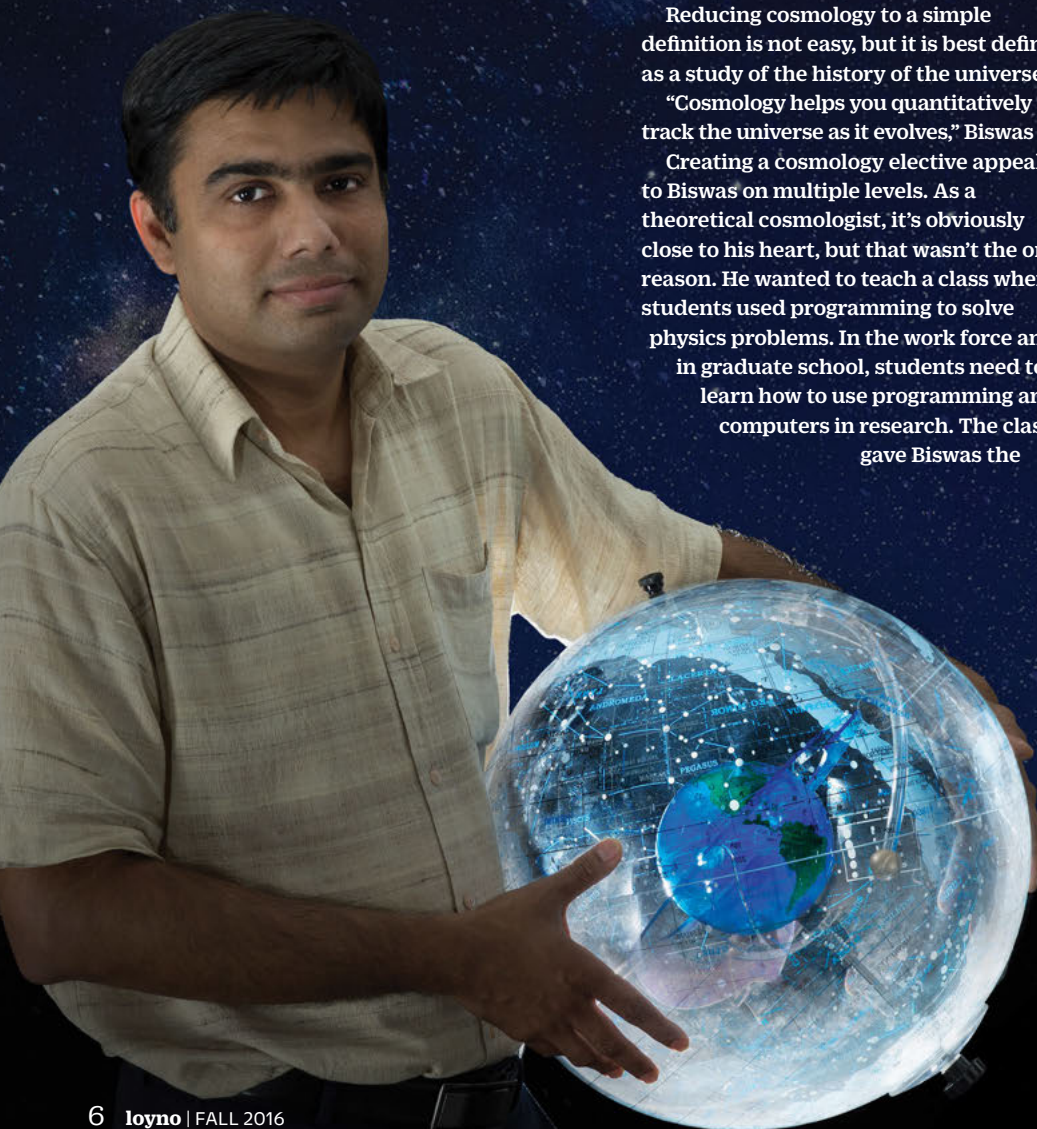
Dark energy provides a force that counteracts gravity and causes the expansion of the universe to speed up.

“There must be more stuff in the galaxy that we cannot see,” Biswas says.

A centerpiece of the class is the research project where students conduct research, coupled with creative thinking, to try to solve the mysteries of the universe. One of the most interesting projects Biswas saw in his class last year focused on dark energy. The group concluded in their research that dark energy does not exist, that gravity simply changes at large cosmological distances. After they concluded the class, they expressed interest in continuing their research. For Biswas, seeing this kind of progress and excitement from his students was the most rewarding part of the class.

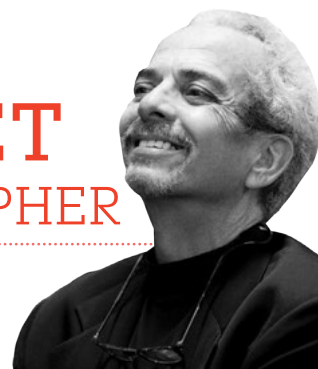
Biswas says the research project posed the biggest challenge for his students but was also the most rewarding part of the class for many. There's a sense of adventure in pursuing answers to questions no one has definitively answered yet about things no one can see.

“It's exciting, but it's also a challenge,” Biswas says. “The challenge but also the opportunity is solving a problem where the answer is not known.”



# THE LOYOLA EFFECT

## HAROLD BAQUET UNIVERSITY PHOTOGRAPHER



Current University Photographer Kyle Encar says he is always trying to honor Baquet's memory and make him proud. "He taught me how to play up to people's personalities and help them open up."

► He told me to 'disarm them with coolness,' and he always said that our students were 'cool people doing cool stuff' and my job was to 'make them look like rock stars.'

... Me, Harold, and [former University Photographer] Russ Cresson have all shared the same desk. I take that seriously. I don't go a day without thinking about him; sometimes I even see him in dreams. I know I have big shoes to fill, but Harold thought I was a good choice; he believed in me. This is more than just a job to me; it's a personal obligation."

1



► Ann Hermes '05 (communication), a staff photographer for the *Christian Science Monitor*, has photographed presidential inaugurations and the Arab Spring. She calls Baquet one of her mentors: "I learned a great deal just watching Harold walk across campus, shaking hands and calling out greetings to just about everyone he passed; in the studio, he could always find way to coax a genuine smile or a laugh out of any subject sitting for a portrait session," she wrote for LOYNO in the Spring 2014 issue. "... I recognize Harold's lessons in the way I interact with subjects today. ... I [strive] for Harold's unwavering friendliness and good humor that I saw break down barriers time and again."

2



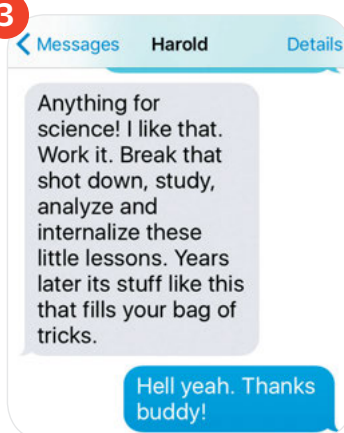
1 Hermes, shot on location. She calls Baquet one of her mentors. (Published with permission by the *Christian Science Monitor*)

2 A memorial photo Encar shot to commemorate Baquet's death, inspired by a Herman Leonard photo. "I just thought it was the perfect way to say thanks to Harold," Encar says.

3 As Encar moved into his new role as Loyola's official photographer, Baquet cheered him on and advised him via text.

4 At a party celebrating Baquet's career, in a true passing-of-the-torch moment, Baquet, left, was photographed with Encar, right, and Cresson.

3



On the first anniversary of his death, a committee came together to establish the Harold F. Baquet Memorial Fund to commemorate his immeasurable impact on Loyola University New Orleans. Given his vast contribution to Loyola's heritage, his diverse interests in both the arts and sciences, and his studio location for many years, it is fitting that an area in Monroe Hall be named in Harold's honor.

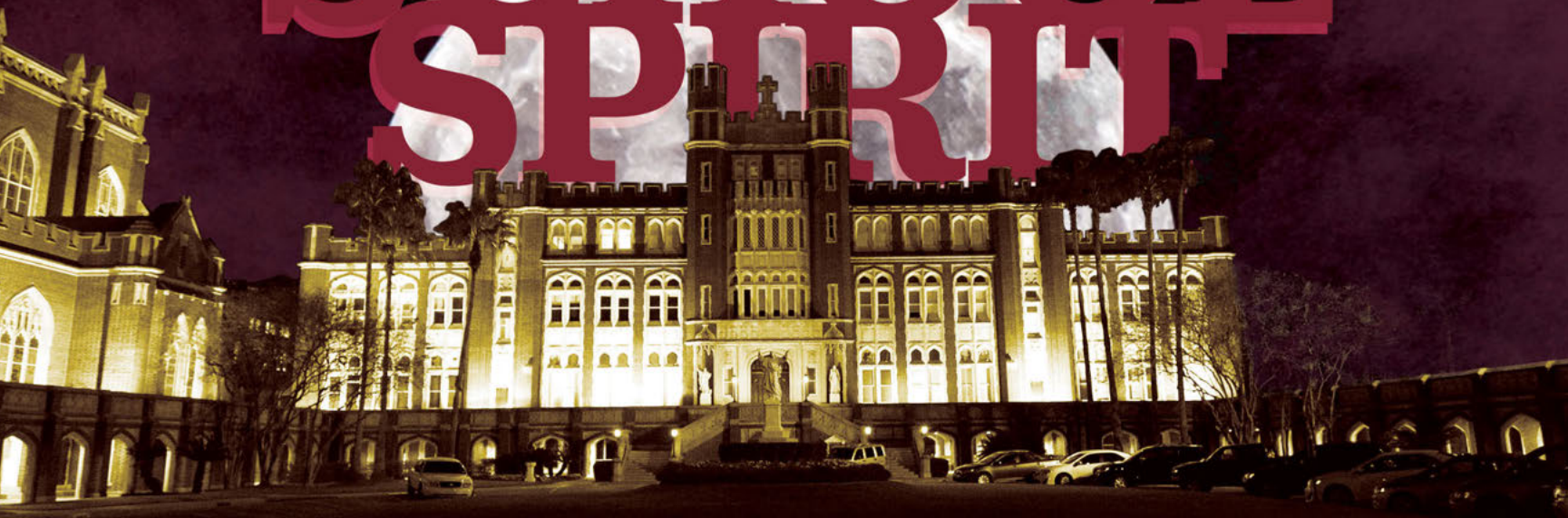


4

Harold created a stained-glass portrait of St. Ignatius that will be displayed on campus, and we ask that the Loyola community honor Harold's gift by making a donation through his memorial fund. Funds raised for this project will go toward completing the funding of Monroe Hall, which housed Harold's office for many years

► To donate, go to [giving.loyno.edu/harold](http://giving.loyno.edu/harold)

# SCHOOL SPIRIT



## We've got spirits; how 'bout you?

BY WILL GLASS

**THERE'S ALWAYS THE FIRST BREEZE.** The one that tickles us into realizing the weather has turned in New Orleans, lets us breathe. Amen.

It's fall.

Soon, or now, the city gets its annual two-to-four weeks of true comfort. A hint at what the world calls autumn—a handful of scarves, some decent seasonal soups, the tender brush of sweatpants.

Or maybe it'll just stay hot; I don't know.

Either way, autumn in New Orleans reveals a culture truly in its element—oak trees, costumes, cemeteries, hauntings, voodoo: These parts of the city really “pop” this time of year.

And Loyola in particular becomes . . . inviting. There's an ethereal romance to the campus that presents itself. Our architecture, for instance: When paired with the season, its gothic influence takes a beautiful, unmistakable shape, and the fading greenery surrounding it compels you, pulls you in.

So sweetly that our visitors may refuse to leave. And so strongly that we get visitors from, like, other worlds or something.

Hauntings are apparently kind of a thing on our campus: We were written about as the first “Secret Haunted Place in New Orleans” on the Ghost City Tours website.

There is, their article says, the ghost of an organ player in Nunemaker Auditorium. A playful spirit who makes a mess of the bookstore at night. Some legendary Ouija-board happenings in Buddig Hall. A shrieking banshee that, along with other apparitions, startles the night staff at Greenville Hall.

Which for a moment made me just so glad that my office is no longer in Greenville.

But only for a moment because there is now a situation of real concern to me, which is that, as I've just learned, from 1916 to 1966, the fifth floor of Marquette Hall was used to store cadavers for the medical and dentistry schools. It's also where those students dissected said cadavers.

It's where, to this day, lights flicker and doors slam shut; where people see roaming spirits; and, when the windows are open, where they still hear the cranking of the pulley that brought the cadavers to storage.

And it's where I'm writing this article. At night. Alone. Which is fine.

And look, my own fears aside, there's a sort of ghoulish pride to the whole matter for sure—an institutional embrace of both tradition and rebirth: Our community hangs around to share in Loyola's magic for an ostensible eternity.

We get it. Hello, everyone—welcome. Thank you for your enthusiasm.

This is, in a very real way, an authentic kind of school spirit. A special kind. A uniquely Loyola kind.

But right now, as I sit hauntedly aware of this office's every creak and groan, it's also a kind that's freaking me out, and I'm packing my things to leave.

A luxury, apparently, many of our more spirited guests don't have.

BY WARNER B. THOMPSON, J.D. '19

Ashley Shabankareh '10, M.M. '12, is working to preserve the history of New Orleans' music while also inspiring the youth who will be its future.

IN NEW ORLEANS, musicians are our historical figures, our myths, the closest thing we have to royalty. Our city's history is filled with larger-than-life musical icons like Louis Armstrong, Charles "Buddy" Bolden, and Sidney Bechet, among others.

Next in the lineage is Loyola alumna Ashley Shabankareh '10 (music education and music industry studies), M.M. '12, with an emphasis in trombone. She's part of the city's new generation of musicians who, yes, remain committed to preserving the past—but also to pushing New Orleans and its music into the future.

She left Loyola an accomplished musician—and a devoted one. She is the current director of programs for the Preservation Hall Foundation, whose mission is to protect, preserve, and perpetuate the musical traditions and heritage of New Orleans. Part of her job is coordinating free music lessons for children in need and residencies for children who

don't have music programs at their schools, as well as securing financial resources for aging musicians who might not be eligible for the traditional safety net programs such as Social Security. By working with both the youngest and oldest musicians in the city, Shabankareh helps ensure traditions get passed on, but she also gets to create communities and bring music into the lives of local children, many of whom have faced traumas, learning disabilities, and delinquency—even incarceration.


In addition to her day job, Shabankareh serves on the boards of the Loyola University Young Alumni Pack and the Music and Culture Coalition of New Orleans, and she is a member of the Camel Toe Lady Steppers, an all-female Mardi Gras dance krewe that holds an annual fundraiser for Roots of Music, a music education and mentoring program for low-income youth.

And alongside all of her service and preservation efforts, she makes sure to save time to play her trombone and sing. She performs regularly with her groups, Marina Orchestra and the Asylum Chorus. She's also performed, though, with greats such as Allen Toussaint, Aretha Franklin, Theresa Andersson, Tao Rodríguez-Seeger, Bedouin Soundclash, and many more.

It's an experience that's so New Orleans—the new generation playing alongside the old, carrying their legacy not by word of mouth but by personal contact. And it's this experience that makes her a perfect candidate to carry the torch of this city's musical legacy while simultaneously bringing music into the lives of children who need it most of all.

DON'T STOP

*the Music*



**STERLING HOLMES,** a sophomore, is interning in Loyola's Office of Marketing and Communications and majoring in public relations. She says hands-on learning is a huge part of her education.

# Current Affairs

BY LAUREN LABORDE '09

Loyola University New Orleans **School of Mass Communication** continues a tradition of excellence while preparing a new generation of innovators for careers that may not even exist yet.

A black and white photograph of three students sitting on a carpeted floor, working on a project. They are surrounded by various papers, including a newspaper with the word 'MARON' visible. One student is wearing a baseball cap. The text 'We're in a communication revolution.' is overlaid in large yellow letters.

# We're in a communication revolution.


A digital age that is redefining how we create, share, and consume information. Such radical transformation has media titans spinning and has caused major shifts in the landscape.

Others—the innovators—have forged new ways to connect consumers with content and to communicate in snack-sized social media.

One school consistently manages to stay at the top of the game—

**Loyola University New Orleans School of Mass Communication.**

We spent some time with the students of “mass comm” and its leader, Dr. Sonya Duhé, to understand how a small liberal arts school rooted in Jesuit traditions consistently produces so many winning programs and student success stories.



The staff of *The Maroon* holds collaborative staff meetings and has switched to what the editor calls a “digital-first workflow,” which trains students to work in the 24-hour digital news cycle. *The Maroon* won a record-breaking 86 awards in 2014-2015 and just this year won the Society for Professional Journalists’ Mark of Excellence award.

**DUHÉ’S OFFICE RESEMBLES THAT OF A STORIED COLLEGE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR** rather than the head of a school of mass communication. Plaques, trophies, and accolades adorn the walls and reflect the winning legacy at Loyola.

Students have won more than 150 awards in the past two years alone. With pride, Duhé ticks off some of the major achievements.

There’s the Bateman, the top prize in public relations, which Loyola has won nine times, more than any other school.

And the Addy awards: “We have won for advertising campaigns students created for clients such as Nissan, Pizza Hut, and local nonprofits.”

And then there is the crown jewel—the Pacemaker. “This is the top award for any university newspaper in the country—it’s our Pulitzer Prize,” she says. “We had to beat out some excellent schools for this one.” By “excellent schools,” Duhé means prestigious schools like Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Vanderbilt.

The School of Mass Communication, with sequences in journalism and strategic communication, is at the top because it has taken the unprecedented dynamics of the media world as a challenge: How do you foster students who are inspired, up-to-date with technology, and able to thrive in a landscape

that changes radically in between their freshman and senior years?

Undaunted, Loyola created a career-focused program that is grounded in the liberal arts and sciences and, influenced by the Jesuit tradition, emphasizes ethics. As a result, the SMC’s graduates are well-rounded, multitasking, thoughtful, and easily adaptable young professionals.

“The world is spinning so fast—we change how we teach every course just about every semester,” Duhé says. “We’re telling stories with tools that didn’t exist a year ago.”

Thanks to this approach, our graduates are landing jobs in traditional media outlets such as ESPN and in other places where digitally savvy communicators are in-demand. One recent graduate manages the website for a local TV station, and another was tweeting

about the first New Orleans Fried Chicken Festival as part of her PR job.

Duhé is involved on a national level in this conversation on how to prepare students in a constantly changing media world. She is president-elect of the Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication, a nonprofit educational association of college-level journalism and communication programs in the United States and Canada.

“Our industry right now is seeing tremendous change, and it really takes a strong vision,” Duhé says. “We are thinking about the future when we don’t even know what some of the future tools might be. I have an opportunity to help with that vision and participate in that dialogue with the 190 or so schools who belong to the association.”



**COLLEEN DULLE,** a senior and the editor of *The Maroon*, says that she believes strongly in the power of journalism as a tool for social justice, even as the technology changes at a rapid pace.

## Doing It All

One student in the middle of the maelstrom is Colleen Dulle. A St. Louis native, she began her Loyola career concentrating on public relations but shifted to journalism. She worked her way up through various roles at Loyola's student newspaper, *The Maroon*, and now is the paper's editor-in-chief.

"Loyola trains us to be multimedia journalists," Dulle says. "Gone are the days when you had to choose among the tracks of broadcast, TV, or print—you have to do it all," she says.

*The Maroon* staff switched to what Dulle calls a "digital-first workflow." Now, the paper publishes stories online every day as news breaks and compiles the best stories from the week—along with a centerpiece feature focusing on a "big-picture" issue—for the paper's weekly print issue.

This has eased the workload on press production nights and trains students to work in the 24-hour digital news cycle. As Michael Giusti, SMC instructor and *Maroon* adviser, put it, "I told them to think of themselves as a newsroom that creates once and publishes everywhere."

*The Maroon* has been well-rewarded for its innovation and general excellence.

In the 2014-2015 year, the paper was named the Princeton Review's No. 4 Best College Newspaper in the Nation; it won the Associated Collegiate Press' Pacemaker award, considered the Pulitzer Prize of student media; it earned an All-American distinction from the Associated Collegiate Press—and that's just to name a few of the record-breaking 86 awards it won that year.

So far in 2016, *The Maroon* has won the regional Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence for Best All-Around Non-Daily Student Newspaper, along with many other individual writing awards.

And because the Press Club of New Orleans doesn't have college categories for its Excellence in Journalism Awards, *The Maroon* regularly wins in multiple categories against the city's news professionals every year—for entries in photography, headline writing, news writing, and social media.

"We are a tiny school with a program that's excellent but not necessarily known on the national scale, and we're winning against the national powerhouses—the Mizzous, the Columbias, the Stanfords," Giusti says. "We're able to compete and win, and a big piece of that is students approach it with excellence as their standard. When people say, 'How do you win so many awards?' I kind of joke, 'We don't know that we're not supposed to.'"

Students in Loyola's SMC hold themselves to high standards, and many don't see themselves as just students—they're getting bylines in professional publications, working at TV news stations, and executing public relations campaigns for real companies before they even graduate.

## "A Newsroom in One Person"

Starlight Williams, a journalism major and editor of Loyola's student magazine, *The Wolf*, is one of the students who has written stories as part of the school's partnership with NOLA.com/*The Times-Picayune* and local NPR affiliate, 89.9 WWNO-FM.

As part of the Loyola Student News Service, she is a published multimedia journalist—writing stories, taking pictures, and putting together video packages on a deadline.

"I always say that at Loyola, they teach you to be a newsroom in one person," Williams, from outside of Atlanta, says. "You can write; you can produce; you can shoot and edit video—anything multiple people would do, you can do it yourself. We're no longer just students. We're going out in the field and working for professional companies. While I haven't gotten a degree yet, I can already say that I am a professional."

Another Loyola student with real-world experience is Valeria Kawas. The bilingual Honduran native works with the local Telemundo affiliate as an anchor/reporter, and she also interned with Telemundo in Miami this summer. But even before these positions, she was able to get a lot of hands-on reporting experience in her journalism classes.

"I went around the city and state and covered everything, including natural disasters, flooding in Hammond, the tornado in LaPlace," Kawas says. "Those classes gave me the opportunity to go around, meet new people, and explore. Journalism is the type of career where you have to work a lot outside of classes; you have to go and search for the stories. Stories are not going to come to you."

But when it comes to her work at Telemundo, she says that Loyola has prepared her in many ways, from practical career advice to more technical skills.

"Basically everything I learned at Loyola in the morning, I had to apply at night at Telemundo," she says, referring to her work as an anchor for the Spanish-language network's nightly newscast. "From learning how to approach sources, how to perform in front of the camera, how to talk properly, what to wear, how to edit ... everything from the most basic things to the most complex things you can imagine."

## Hands-On and Cutting-Edge

Students hone skills in multimedia communication on campus, too. *The Maroon Minute*, a TV news-style broadcast, is produced daily and published online. *The Maroon* also recently launched a podcast, "The Wolf of Loyola."

Dulle, *The Maroon* editor, says that in classes students are constantly learning about open-source digital storytelling tools such as ThingLink, Timeline JS, and Canva.

Sterling Holmes, a Los Angeles native who wants to work in public relations and event-planning in the music industry after she graduates, is also getting experience without having to leave campus.

She is interning in Loyola's Office of Marketing and Communications and says having this internship helps reinforce the things she learns in classes.

"I get to apply [what I've learned]," she says. "When I see something in class, I think, 'I know how to do that; I've seen that before.' It makes it easier to learn when you've already done it hands-on."

The SMC's Strategic Communications program, which encompasses the advertising and public relations tracks, also promotes hands-on experience in and outside the classroom.

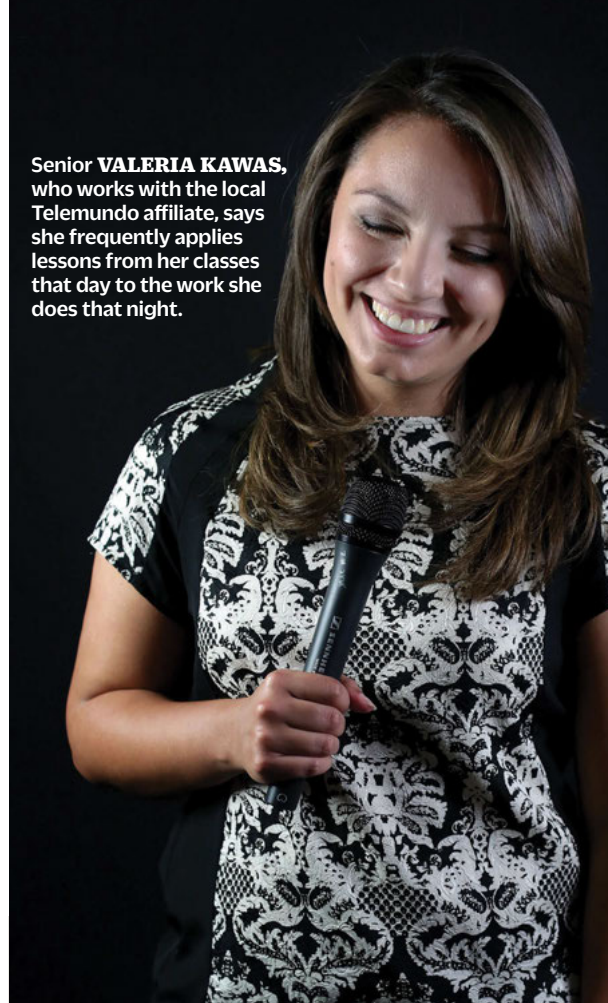
How do you teach advertising in a time when it's less about traditional TV and print ads and more about audience engagement? You bring industry leaders on the vanguard of content creation to the classroom and have students work on real campaigns alongside agency employees.

Back in the '40s, Burma-Shave won awards for telling stories with an innovative billboard campaign. Today, it's Dove telling women they are beautiful through short videos. The principles are the same; the delivery is just different. The SMC students are creating these new stories on platforms such as Snapchat and Instagram. A recent class project had students using Snapchat Stories to promote the city of New Orleans to visitors.

The school's Shawn M. Donnelley Center for Nonprofit Communications links nonprofit organizations needing help with advertising and public relations with students who work on the projects to build their portfolios. The nonprofits are delighted with the students' work, and the students benefit from the real-world experience and client feedback.

Further, the SMC recently launched Brand Lab, a student-run agency that provides a similar service for for-profit clients. Students are planning events, designing logos,

Senior **VALERIA KAWAS**, who works with the local Telemundo affiliate, says she frequently applies lessons from her classes that day to the work she does that night.



**STARLIGHT WILLIAMS**, a senior journalism major and editor of *The Wolf*, Loyola's student magazine, says that even without her degree, she has gotten enough experience to consider herself a professional already.

delivering pictures and video, and working on social media campaigns.

And Loyola shines in public relations. The SMC participates in the Public Relations Student Society of America's annual Bateman Case Study Competition. Teams of college students develop and implement a comprehensive public relations campaign for an assigned client. Loyola has won the top prize more than any other school in the country and has finished in the top three for the past 15 years.

## Winning in the Work Force

NiRey Reynolds '15 (communication) says her experience on Loyola's Bateman team was what led her to her first job after graduation. During last year's competition in Chicago, she met the person who would be her boss at PRSSA's national headquarters in New York. Just a few months after getting an administrative assistant job at the organization, she was promoted to her current position as student programs coordinator.

"I really think I took from Loyola the work ethic and the experience of having a lot of moving parts in your life," Reynolds says. "At Loyola I was on the Bateman team; before that I worked at *The Maroon*; then I had a work study job and an internship at the Emeril Lagasse Foundation—and that was all happening at the same time. I think Loyola just prepared me for managing different parts of my life at once."

Reynolds stresses the importance of internships and participating with student organizations.

"You need to be involved in something else outside of the classroom that's going to set you apart," she says, "and Loyola gave me all those opportunities to do that."

When it comes to students who haven't graduated yet, how do they feel about entering this competitive, always-changing work force? Students at Loyola are inspired by journalism and communications and are trained in skills that can be adaptable anywhere.

"Our job placement has consistently been well above the national average," Duhé says. "That's just impressive because that's what parents care about and what students care about today: 'Will I be able to get a job once I complete this degree?' The answer is absolutely yes. This degree lends itself to directly walking into any organization and being able to hit the ground running."



**NIREY REYNOLDS '15**, who was hired just after graduation and almost immediately promoted, says her experience at the School of Mass Communication taught her how to multitask and instilled in her a strong work ethic that helped her get ahead.

## Ethical Leadership

Loyola's SMC is giving students an additional edge: This year, seniors will graduate with a certification in ethical leadership from the Student Center for the Public Trust. All students will get the certification as part of a required ethics class. More than 80 percent of young professionals face an ethical dilemma within their first two years in the work force, according to the organization, and this certification will ensure that our graduates have the skills and the backbone to successfully navigate the work environment.

## Setting the Pace

*Maroon* adviser Giusti paraphrases Mark Twain by saying rumors of the death of traditional media are greatly exaggerated.

"Media is changing, for sure, but if you're graduating with multi-platform skills, being able to tell stories through all the digital tools that are available, you're still in-demand," he says. "We're also placing people in corporate settings. The skills that they're learning, telling stories and using digital tools to communicate,

are very valuable in a public relations setting, in any kind of corporate communications.

We're also seeing people who are being picked up by law firms as investigators. The jobs are there if you're willing to embrace the change."

No matter the medium, students from Loyola are multitasking, thoughtful, and optimistic.

Dulle wants to work in Catholic media after graduation but is cautious about making long-term plans, not knowing what the career landscape will look like. But her reasons for wanting to go in journalism probably resemble those of many *Maroon* editors before her, even ones predating the Internet.

"I have a lot of hope in the power of journalism," she says. "The whole point of journalists in society is to hold institutions accountable and draw attention to what real people are going through. Ultimately, we're not supposed to have an agenda, but you hope you'll effect some positive change in drawing attention to things that are problems or things that are injustices. I feel like there's a lot of power in that."

# Pay it Forward

Students in Loyola's new **master of arts in teaching program** are getting hands-on experience and teacher certification to help them pursue their dreams of inspiring the next generation of learners.

As Loyola continues to find ways to emphasize the importance of real-world experience, the school has launched a new master of arts in teaching degree.

"The MAT is important for Loyola because it provides a path to certification and a master's degree for three distinct groups: students with undergraduate degrees in an area other than education, individuals who are teaching without certification, and persons who are employed in another field but would like to teach," says Dr. Glenda Hembree, assistant professor of education. "Students get certification and a master's degree, which leads to an increased salary and upward mobility in education."

The program is designed to fit the schedules of working professionals, and up to 40 percent of courses will be online. In addition, the cost is only about half of regular graduate tuition. Approved by the Louisiana State Department of Education, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, and the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the program

should be able to be completed in a little over a year if students take at least 9 hours per semester, including summers. Teachers who are currently employed but not yet certified can use their own classrooms for any course-related activities.

Coursework includes a year-long internship as well as a wide variety of relevant topics ranging from multiculturalism and social justice to adolescent learners.

"The program places an emphasis on competency-based skills and real-world situations," says Dr. Jane Chauvin, professor emerita of education. "Our first course in Fall 2016 focuses on research in the area of best practices in teaching. It will be intellectually stimulating and practical at the same time. All teachers could benefit from this course."

Benefits are already being felt for student Ryan Burgess, who is pursuing the MAT degree.

"Loyola's MAT program really stood out to me as being a great option due to the hybrid program," Burgess says. "Some classes are online, and some are in person—there's still a sense of being connected to a campus and to the educators, but the many online courses offered make it flexible for people like me who work full-time or have families. I also really appreciate that a teaching internship is built into the course so that my experience in the classroom can be used as part of the curriculum. Already what I've learned has informed my current teaching."

Overall, Burgess is eager for what's to come: "Not only will I receive my certification for the grade levels I want to teach, but the degree will allow me to obtain the necessary tools and knowledge to be the best classroom teacher I can be. I've had plenty of on-the-job training as an English teacher for lower grades, but I'm so excited to begin working with older students. It was in junior high and high school that I truly learned to appreciate classic literature and the art of writing. I can't wait to instill that same love, or at least knowledge, in the students I teach in the future."



# Cannonized

Nitro Nicole, St. Ignatius, and the  
secret history of Jesuit cannonballs

BY WILL GLASS



The first thing I see at the loading dock is a clown in gym shorts.

A childhood fear rushes back, now sponsored by Adidas, as I meet eyes with the off-duty performer. He nods his head at me. I don't blink.

"It's a good thing I'm not afraid of clowns," Angie says. Our digital marketing manager. She takes some photos for Snapchat, starts planning her coverage.

"Yeah, that is a good thing," Kyle says. Our photographer. He's after a shot of the human cannonball mid-flight. He's checking angles, wondering about logistics. "I'm waiting for a gang of them to show up behind us and just start snapping."

"I just started reading *It*," I say. I'm here to tell our story and also, presumably, to face something bigger than myself. "I want to meet that camel over there."

We're at the circus—because a Loyola University New Orleans alumna is part of the performance: Nicole Sanders '07 (psychology), the human cannonball.

Through gymnasts, cyclists, and aerialists; Chick-fil-A cows and circus camels; and, ugh, clowns, we make our way to our seats—Angie's Dumbo-sized bag of cotton candy in tow. I'm wearing a camel hat that came with her treat, and I'm monumentally excited about that.

And also to see the circus with fresh eyes—this will be the first time since I was a child. Since I've grown up. Angie and Kyle too.

A sort of absolutely *Looney Tunes* circus-techno spills out of the speakers, and the clowns warm the crowd up with some slapstick, landing on or tripping over one another during impressive gymnastic feats, and my childhood fear is not alleviated—these clowns seem to laugh at pain, and they're athletic to boot.

But the routine is classic, and I survive, eager to see what's next. The lights dim, and a spotlight splashes onto the announcer.

Between pinches of cotton candy, Angie hands me my special bag of circus peanuts, smuggled in by way of her purse.

A moment in the dark, and then—

"New Orleans," the announcer says. "Are you ready for the greatest show on Earth?"

## “I’m always nervous,”

Nicole Sanders tells me. “When you go to perform and you’re not nervous—then there’s a problem.”

She’s more commonly known as Nitro Nicole, the human cannonball in Circus Xtreme presented by Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey.

“There was a little brainstorming session with one of the production guys who hired me,” Sanders says of her stage name. “He wanted something with pizzazz . . . that also signified me getting shot out of a cannon.”

There’s a child in me—the one who wanted to be fighter pilot before growing up to wear glasses—who imagines that he’d have had a cool call sign like “Nitro” or “Batman” or something.

And he ponders a career move as Nitro starts describing her experience with,

## “I’m traveling at 66 miles per hour.”

She explains her routine: “I do this little dance on top of the cannon. I’m smiling. I’m walking up it, waving goodbye to everyone. I get in the cannon; I get in position; and then the ringmaster is like, ‘Nicole, are you ready?’ I say, ‘Yeah!’ Then, once he starts the countdown, I psych myself up even more, make sure I’m super-tight. And then what I think most is ‘attack.’ Just aggression. To hit that perfect form and soar through the air and hold it.

“It’s a mental preparation,” she continues. “The act before mine, I’m getting mentally ready. And then it’s like an attack, an aggression.”

I consider the moment midair, the difference between that and flying an F-16. Nitro has no machine to control outside her body, no engines, thrusters, or flaps with which to maneuver. And I imagine what one thinks about without those reassuring, solvable switches.

“I don’t even let other things cross my mind. . . . It is an extreme level of focus,” she says. “Once I’m shot out, the only thing I’m thinking is, ‘attack,’ ‘stay tight.’ I don’t even let any other thoughts come in.”

This focused determination is something I’ll come to learn has carried her through her career and, especially, through hardship: Before



Nicole was Nitro, she faced multiple knee injuries that would challenge her commitment to a career in the performing arts.

“I’ve had three ACL surgeries,” she explains. “One of them was volleyball; that was in high school. Then, in college, one of them was for ballet. Then one of them was in professional school when I was tumbling.”

But those challenges, she says, proved to her that she’d discerned the right career path for her, one she was willing to fight for.

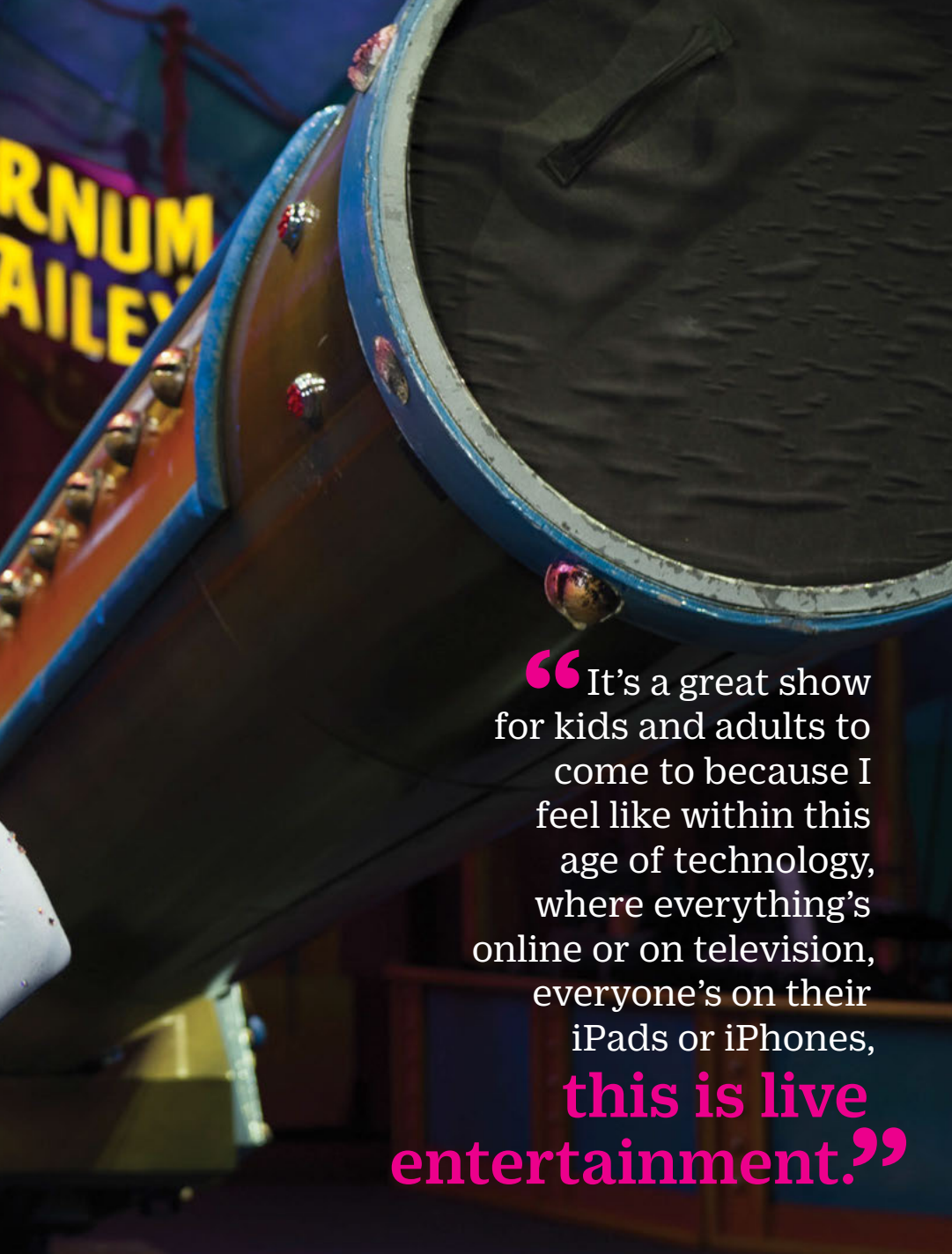
“It’s easy to sometimes give up,” she says. “But if you have such a passion for something and a drive and you know that that’s what you want to do, then you just have to push past the hard times and keep going. Because you can succeed.”

Nicole is a person who’s chosen strength. She’s discerned her path and fought to stay on it, to become a person she loved—and a performer she loved to share with others. She strikes me as the kind who would’ve had the same passion *without* the leg injuries.

But for some of us, to reach those epiphanic stars, it takes a busted leg.

**AS A YOUNG MAN**, St. Ignatius of Loyola—lovingly hereafter, “Iggy”—was something of a performer himself.

Enthralled by stories of knights and their adventures, Iggy dressed well and danced well; he became a successful Don Juan; and he carried a sword and dagger to match his strut—and to fortify his mouth.



“It’s a great show for kids and adults to come to because I feel like within this age of technology, where everything’s online or on television, everyone’s on their iPads or iPhones, this is live entertainment.”

Later, in his own words, he’d describe himself as “a man given to the vanities of the world, whose chief delight consisted in martial exercises, with a great and vain desire to win renown.”

But at 17 years old, he thought he was being brave and chivalrous—seducing women, dueling men: It was what he’d read about, and his gentlemanly status afforded him the opportunity of those pursuits without much consequence.

He began his military career at the same age, joining the army and fighting for the Duke of Nájera in Spain, under whose leadership Iggy fought successfully and without injury through a number of battles.

About a decade later on May 20, 1521, Iggy was part of a small group of Spanish soldiers

defending a fortress in Pamplona against a much larger French army. The Spanish soldiers eventually saw no option but to surrender.

But Iggy refused, no doubt aware of the moment’s glory, its tall-tale-ability. He’d attempt to hold off the entire French army by himself. He’d make a stand.

And a cannonball would shatter his leg.

The French admired his bravery, so they brought him, alive, back to his father’s castle of Loyola. There, he’d endure a painful recovery.

Because his leg was set improperly the first time, a surgery was required to break it and re-set it—without anesthesia. Even with the additional surgery, he’d limp for the rest of his life.

To pass the time during his recovery, he asked for books. The kind he liked—stories

of knights, adventure, chivalry. But the only available books were those about Jesus and the saints. He read.

And for the first time, Iggy could call his life “examined.” Reading those stories, he thought about the way he’d been living, evaluated the way he understood chivalry and morality.

In 1521, Iggy’s military career was over. As we know, he’d go on to found the Society of Jesus—the Jesuits—an order committed to serving the pope as missionaries with an emphasis on intellectual and spiritual growth: the education of the whole person.

But first, he’d lie in bed and evaluate the path he planned to take. What it meant to serve a righteous cause and be a man of honor. What it was that he was called to do.

For our Iggy, a cannonball was the beginning of his discernment.

#### AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS,

Nitro Nicole studied psychology, ballet, and Spanish. She was a good student, graduating magna cum laude with a 3.7 GPA and honors.

She took a job as an administrative assistant at Loyola, and she considered going to graduate school to pursue her passion for psychology. She realized, though, that another passion was calling just a little louder.

“I’ve always done ballet—since the age of 3—and I loved it,” she says. “I loved performing. That’s, I think, my No. 1 love. I knew the desk life wasn’t for me.”

And that’s a good thing. Because now, Nitro Nicole tells me, she travels to a different city every week.

“It’s a pretty consistent travel schedule,” she says.

While the majority of her life is spent traveling, performing, and training—which she loves—she does look forward to her occasional downtime.

“This year we’ll have six down-weeks,” she says. “I think the majority of the time will be for, like, a Christmas break. And then we’ll have a couple other down-weeks sprinkled in here and there. So it’s a total of six.”

During those down-weeks, Nitro Nicole likes to sleep, read, visit friends and family, and cook.

Due, I think, to a particular cosmic alignment—for which I’m thankful—I get to revel in the punchline that is a human cannonball discussing her recent affinity for meatballs: “I’ve been on a kick recently with meatballs. I do a healthier version of it, which is like spaghetti squash and turkey meatballs.”

Any other signature dish would have been a disappointment, really. And it’s all I can do to avoid making a tasteless squash joke.

I digress—this week is not a down-week for Nitro. This week, the city she performs in is New Orleans.

"I am really excited," she says. "I've got a bunch of friends coming: all my mom's friends, family, my mom, my sister who has actually yet to see me do it. So this will be a very special week for me."

Mother Nitro is a little apprehensive—she too has not seen the act in person.

"I've only ever showed my mom a video of it, so she's going to see me live for the first time

## "I don't shoot out of a cannon in heels."

in New Orleans," she says. "So I think she'll be a little nervous."

And, of course, her boyfriend is nervous, though he's used to seeing this side of her—he's in the circus himself.

"The circus I was in prior to this, he actually shot the cannon for a different guy for about two years," Sanders says. "And so he came with me to this circus, and he's part of the floor crew, and he's actually on my airbag; he's watching every single flight. I think he gets more nervous than I do."

She tells me she wouldn't have it any other way, that it's good to land near a familiar face.

"It's great to have him there because he's like, 'OK, you overturned a little bit,' or 'You've got to watch out on this,' or—but he's a big cheerleader of mine, which I appreciate, and it's nice to have other eyes looking at you."

Other eyes, that is, aside from the screaming fans. What a way it must be to come back to your hometown. Many of us leave home to pursue our careers, our passions. And it's a sweet reunion when we come home to family and friends and get to trade stories about who's accomplished what, who's been where.

Not all of us, though, get to come back via cannon. When Sanders comes home to see family and friends, she comes with tightrope walkers and camels. She comes as part of a show. And proudly so.

"I'm also very pleased to be a woman being shot out of a cannon," she says. "It's nice to be able to showcase to young girls and young men that, hey, women can do the same thing as men. Women's equality is important. And just like a man can get shot out of a cannon, so can a woman."

Which is interesting in sort of an immediate way. Never before would I have looked at the circus with any mind toward politics. The other way around, maybe.

But later, she'll say something else, too—about the performers coming from wildly

different parts of the world, all traveling together under the same passion, working as a team: men, women, trusting each other totally—and because of it, I'll look forward to seeing the circus with a fresh set of eyes.

She continues: "A little girl will say, 'Oh, Mom, isn't she pretty?' Or her mom will say, 'Look, isn't she pretty?' And I'll say, 'Thank you very much, but guess what: I'm also

strong and courageous. Because I get shot out of a cannon.'"

And during the pre-show she'll say something jokingly that sticks with me: "I don't shoot out of a cannon in heels."

But before all of this, before she was a strong, courageous cannonball giving an interview, she was a woman working a desk job, deciding what her next step should be.

"I started taking this class with this local woman Lorelie Ashe doing the trapeze, and I found that I loved it, anything about being in the air," she says.

Ashe suggested that Sanders go to professional school.

"I thought, 'Why not?' I love performing; I love doing this aerial work. If I'm going to do something, I may as well do it now, right? While my body's still with it."

She applied for a professional program for aerials in San Francisco. She'd only been doing it for about three months at that time, and they denied her from the program, saying she needed to work on her strength.

"At that point I didn't have any pull-ups because as a dancer you don't really use your upper body as much," she explains.

The rejection only pushed her to work harder.

"I was like, 'You know what? That—this proves to me how much I actually want it.' Because I really wanted it," she says. "I kept training and kept training and applied the next year and actually moved to San Francisco before that and started taking the classes, and, you know, then I was accepted . . . and I've been performing ever since."

And when the opportunity came along not just to be part of the circus but to be the human cannonball, she knew that's what she wanted.

"The job offer came along, and I thought about it for about 15 minutes before I said, 'Yeah, I'm in.' You can't be wishy-washy. With the cannon especially, you have to be into it."

Which is an attitude that kept her going when her first shot out of the cannon turned out to be . . . not so pretty.

"What my coach said—who's trained tons of cannonballs—he said no one's first shot has been pretty," she says. "You think you can prepare yourself for something like that, but you really can't because it's not like you're just sitting there like you're going on a ride . . . you have to activate your muscles and immediately react. Needless to say, it took me by surprise; I wasn't prepared for it and reacted, obviously, too slow."

"But I kept training, kept going at it, and my determination won out, and I got it."

Throughout her story, she tells me the greatest and most constant of her passions was always performing.

As we speak, though, another shines through—people.

For every variant of "be true to yourself and your passion, and work hard at anything you want—because it is possible" she espouses, she follows it with an addendum: "If you follow your dreams as such, you can, I think, positively impact other people."

She explains what kept her going through her leg injuries and her rejection to professional school—"I was thinking about the goal I had set for myself . . . being able to perform and showcase all the passion that I have for it and for it to come across to the audience and for them to develop a reaction in some way—a passion for it themselves or an appreciation or just happiness in general"—and it's clear how much value she assigns to human interaction, to the personal transaction of goodwill that comes with performance. And she tells me this is something her time at Loyola helped to shape.

"Loyola will require classes in language, religion, history, you know—everything. Psychology. So I really feel like it prepared me to just be a successful person and relate with other people in society. So many people I feel like have problems with relating to maybe their co-workers or their bosses or successfully communicating and not getting upset about things. I feel like Loyola put things in a larger perspective for me. I feel like I can appreciate just needing human interaction more."

This is a skill that surely comes in handy—along with her passion for psychology—when traveling with a circus crew.

"It's a trip," she says. "It's nice. All the people here—there are very few Americans aside from the clowns and the ringmaster. And a lot of the workers are Americans, too. But a lot of the performers are from Brazil or the Ukraine or Mongolia, and it's awesome

“If you’re determined enough and you work hard enough, anything is possible.”



to interact with people like that. You know, learn something about their culture and really share the passion of the circus.”

Ultimately, she says, the most important thing she cultivated at Loyola was a complete education of her whole person.

“What I took away from Loyola was trying to be a well-rounded individual,” she says. “Whether that be a well-rounded performer with ballet or—and I think overall just a well-rounded person.”

And who better to become a human cannonball than a well-rounded person?

“I took this class called ‘The Origin of Sin’ or something sin-related, and every paper we had to do, I would somehow try to integrate my own religious thoughts on it—but also while proving the theme or whatever he was having us do . . . and he was just so open-minded about it. That really kind of stuck with me how, you know, you can be a different belief but still be learning about each other. And learning about religion or non-religion and how they think and why they think the way they do, I think, is an asset to have—to be a better human in general so you can relate to society and there can be harmony in all this dissonance.”

Truly, this is what a Jesuit-educated woman becomes: a cannonball to the leg of the world—one who can appreciate the simple, socially relevant beauty of a traveling live act so passionately that it gets the rest of us to appreciate it too, to see something they’ve never seen before.

Especially excited now to attend the show, I sneak in a question about the cannon, ask her how it works.

She laughs.

“Yeah,” she says. “That’s definitely a circus secret there.”

#### THE SHOW BEGINS.

The greatest one on Earth.

As trapeze artists drop from the ceiling, an army of gymnasts sprints, flips, and dances across the floor toward us. The ringleader’s platform does laps around the arena floor as he waves and sings about the “extreme adventure, extreme excitement” that’s in store.

Cyclists and horses emerge; strongmen lift dancers with ease; our own Nitro Nicole has a shining introductory moment as she spins on a rope all the way up to the ceiling and back down as the other performers kneel before the ritual. Each member or group shines in some way before the routine ends with all of them dancing and flipping in synchrony as one animal—*e pluribus unum*.

And this is when I do see the Greatest Show on Earth with fresh eyes. Freshened by my own experience, yeah, but blasted and leg-shattered by Nitro.

For the first time, I visualize tangible politics in the circus, and I see the thing for what it is—a traveling Eden, one in which nationality, color, creed, ability are all differences not just to be tolerated but celebrated and utilized to full potential.

The circus becomes not a sideshow but a roadmap—an example of a multicultural society full of individuals, yes, but ones willing to lean on each other and benefit from diversity.

Or, in the words of Nitro Nicole, a bit of harmony in all this dissonance.

A few acts pass, each themed after a different exotic part of the world. After an impressive feat from the Mongolian strongmen, a comically large cannon is wheeled to the floor, and we know what’s coming.

“Introducing the most dynamic cannonball on the planet,” the ringleader says. “Nitro Nicole.”

Nitro steps onto her cannon as the ringleader continues.

“This brave young rocket will be fired at 66 miles per hour, experiencing a g-force of 7—the same force pilots feel flying an F-16 fighter jet.”

Before dancing up the cannon toward its open tip, she appears to examine something at its base.

“Nitro Nicole is making critical last-minute calculations and adjustments,” the ringleader says.

As she sits on the tip of the cannon, her legs dangling into it, the ringleader continues.

“Her mind is firmly focused on the airbag 104 feet in the distance. Timing and position are crucial.”

She drops into the cannon.

“This feat is for the most elite of athletes. So don’t blink, or you’ll miss this fiery flash through the sky.”

She’s in the cannon now; we can’t see her.

“New Orleans, are you ready? Make some noise!”

The crowd cheers. The ringleader can’t hear them. They cheer again.

“Nitro Nicole, are you ready?”

Over the speakers we hear her response, a simple but enthusiastic, “Ready.”

The ringleader: “OK, everyone—count down with me. Five . . . four . . . three . . . two . . . one . . . go.”

On go: A boom; smoke at the base of the cannon; and a strong, Jesuit-educated woman soaring straight-backed through the air. She flips forward and lands on her back in the middle of the airbag as sparks fly from the ground.

She stands into the spotlight and waves to the cheering crowd, and the ringleader says enthusiastically, loudly, but with no ounce of surprise—

“Perfect landing for Nitro Nicole!”

An aerial photograph showing a large area of flooding. The water is a murky brown color, and numerous cars are floating in it. The surrounding area is covered in dense green trees. The title 'A FLOOD of' is overlaid on the image, with 'A FLOOD' in large white capital letters and 'of' in a smaller white script font. A thick yellow brushstroke underline is positioned under the word 'of' and extends across the right side of the image.

# A FLOOD of

BY AUTUMN CAFIERO GIUSTI '00

Loyola alumni  
heed the call  
to service  
to help  
our neighbors in  
flood-devastated  
Baton Rouge.

PHOTO "VIEW OF THE FLOOD" ©2016  
BY PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS MELISSA LEAKE  
[flickr.com/photos/iip-photo-archive/28974615221/](https://www.flickr.com/photos/iip-photo-archive/28974615221/)  
Used under Creative Commons license.



Surviving

# “There is a house in New Orleans,”

begins one of our city’s most iconic cultural references—the Animals’ “House of the Rising Sun.”

# “There *was* a house in New Orleans,”

many of our Katrina stories respond.

And now, there’s Baton Rouge, with no song and far less national reference—ruined with absence, a neglected pain.

Photo by Gerald Beck Jr.

## A Disaster

We learned during Katrina that our state’s true colors shine in these moments. And in large part, they’re beautiful. There are beautiful people here who believe in saving one another.

Loyola is proud to support this kind of stately communion—men and women for others, commitment to service.

It’s even prouder to name those members of the community who fight for it on the ground—however they can. Like Ellen Rice. Kate Gremillion. John Reinagel.

This is you, Loyola. These are alumni, graduates of a school that teaches its students to care about the disenfranchised, to serve those in need, to care about “strangers” as their own.

But not strangers. Baton Rouge, these people—they’re your brothers and sisters. They are crying, suffering.

Not strangers—you.

And your friends, your family—the Loyola community: They’re offering support to these people.

You are part of this club. People are calling for us. They need us.

And many of us are responding.

## With Our Hands

Because of Katrina, Ellen Rice ’12 (sociology) learned how to wield a hammer. Because of Loyola, she learned how to use it to rebuild lives.

Building on her past experiences constructing homes after the 2005 hurricane, Rice traveled to Baton Rouge in August to supervise volunteers with the St. Bernard Project, a nonprofit that helps communities rebuild after disasters.

Rice is just one of several Loyola alumni who have stepped up to help Baton Rouge area residents recover from the summer’s historic flooding. Some solicited donations, while others, like Rice, showed up to tear out soggy drywall and rebuild in earnest.

“The whole Jesuit ideal is to really force you to be aware of not only yourself but other people and your place in the world,” she says. “So I think for students who are interested in being involved in something in New Orleans in a meaningful way, the St. Bernard Project is a great way to do that.”

Rice volunteered with the St. Bernard Project throughout college to help the city rebuild after Hurricane Katrina and then came back for two terms after college as a site supervisor with the organization’s AmeriCorps program. So when the St.

Bernard Project put out a call for past site supervisors who could help lead volunteers in Baton Rouge, Rice felt compelled to step up.

Working in Baton Rouge with the St. Bernard Project ended up being a homecoming of sorts for Rice, whose assignment was to supervise a group of Loyola University Community Action Program volunteers. Rice was active in LUCAP as a student and ran the organization’s hunger relief project for three years. “LUCAP was very involved in gutting and mucking right after Katrina in New Orleans,” Rice says. “So it was kind of cool to see that continue.”

## With Our Minds

The outpouring of relief for Baton Rouge included assistance from alumni who traveled great distances to be of service.

One of those was Kate Gremillion ’12 (communication), who had just moved to Atlanta over the summer to grow her business, Mavenly + Co. When she heard about the flooding in her hometown of Baton Rouge, she didn’t waste any time.

“It was a no-brainer for me to help if I could get into the city,” she says.

Gremillion’s father is chief medical officer of Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge, and

her mother works at Woman's Hospital, so she realized there would be a shortage of supplies like scrubs and feminine hygiene products.

She put a message on Facebook asking friends to donate whatever they could. Within a matter of days, she ended up getting \$800 in donations. That weekend, she drove in from Atlanta and stopped in Gulfport, Miss., to pick up \$600 in sundries and essentials. She used the rest of the money to buy bulk items at Costco in New Orleans. She also went to her family's home, which did not take on water, and emptied out closets to find clothes to donate. She was able to deliver items directly to people she knew who had lost their homes and cars.

In total, Gremillion raised more than \$1,000 to buy supplies for people in need. She was impressed that even acquaintances made individual donations of \$100 or more. "I was just the messenger, so it was humbling," she says.

## With Our Hearts

The devastation in Baton Rouge was the first time some alumni had experienced a disaster and a relief effort of this scale. John Reinagel '97 (political science) had participated in service projects in and around New Orleans before, both through his place of worship, GracePoint Church in Destrehan, and his fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi. He'd worked at food pantries and visited nursing homes, but he had never taken part in a volunteer effort as far-reaching as the one in Baton Rouge. And because he lived outside of Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina, he had never seen that much destruction in person. "You'd drive down the road, and there was just a wall of furniture and debris," he says. "You couldn't even see the houses because of the mounds of trash in front."

Reinagel was one of the key players at his church who helped coordinate efforts to assist flooded residents. By soliciting donations from both the congregation and the surrounding community, the church secured three truckloads of water, food, and other essentials.

Reinagel and his 8-year-old son, Will, traveled to Baton Rouge with their church group one Saturday to deliver supplies and help clear out homes and businesses.



Photo by Gerald Beck Jr.

Reinagel was particularly struck by the scene at a Baton Rouge beauty shop that flooded. "It looked like someone came in and just threw stuff around," he says.

The woman who owned the shop had been in business for more than 10 years. The house she and her family had just built and moved into also flooded. "She lost her house, her mom lost her house, and she lost her business," Reinagel says. "So you just keep hearing these stories."

Although residents still have a long way to go, Reinagel says he was grateful to have had the opportunity to be there for people at a time when they felt the most vulnerable.

"We spent a lot of time working, but we also spent a lot of time just sitting and talking to people there," he says. "It was therapeutic for them. We got as much appreciation for just listening to them as we did for actually lending a hand."



Photo by Gerald Beck Jr.



HOW TO  
HELP

### Loyola Flood Relief Volunteer Opportunities

[mm.loyno.edu/latest-news/louisiana-flood-relief-volunteer-opportunities](http://mm.loyno.edu/latest-news/louisiana-flood-relief-volunteer-opportunities)

### GracePoint Church

[gracepointnow.com/give](http://gracepointnow.com/give)

### Second Harvest Food Bank

[no-hunger.org](http://no-hunger.org)

### St. Bernard Project

[stbernardproject.org](http://stbernardproject.org)

### Together Baton Rouge

[togetherbr.nationbuilder.com](http://togetherbr.nationbuilder.com)

### Volunteer Louisiana

[volunteerlouisiana.gov/volunteering/blog/](http://volunteerlouisiana.gov/volunteering/blog/)

# UNITED WE STAND

BY SARAH RAVITS

Loyola hosted the inaugural **United for Racial Justice Week** to promote justice, raise awareness of systemic oppression, and embrace our Jesuit values.

**THE SUMMER OF 2016** was rife with racial injustice and state-inflicted brutality, along with horrific violence against police. But the tragedies that occurred during this time span were a mere microcosm for what has been happening in the United States since its earliest days. Thanks in large part to social media, the heinous and deadly actions committed against people of color were accessible to a wider audience than ever before—sparking outrage and spurring the necessity to address the ongoing violence.

Several members of the faculty at Loyola University New Orleans, who also came together on social media, collaborated to promote justice and to address and help overcome systemic oppression. It began with online discussions, as some of the faculty members had left New Orleans for the summer to pursue research endeavors, but when the academic school year resumed, United for Racial Justice Week came to fruition on Sept. 12-18, 2016, providing an educational, informative, and respectful environment for members of the Loyola community to discuss these issues and think about proactive solutions. It gave students the opportunity to think about working toward racial justice through a number of interdisciplinary venues.

Among the organizers were faculty members Ashley Howard, Laura Murphy, and Interim Chief Diversity Office Liv Newman. Their goals for the week were to facilitate teach-ins, seminars, social justice research, and community support.

Howard says the event addressed challenges on multiple levels: community, university, municipal, national, and global.

Murphy, an associate professor of English and African-American studies, is the director of The Modern Slavery Research Project at the university and says, "We aspire to make racial justice activism a central part of the [students'] lives at Loyola and beyond."

Among the 100 or so students who were deeply involved is Dayna Love Hodge Lynch, who will complete her undergraduate degree in English this academic year with a minor in African and African-American studies. Lynch firmly believes that her involvement was a necessity, not a choice.

**"I think it is a responsibility for all people, especially those going to an educational institution that values social justice, to speak about issues that make some people uncomfortable,"**

she says. "Racism is still real. So is racialized police brutality, various forms of privileges, disenfranchisement, and violence. Resistance, political mobilization, and activism have always emerged with injustice, and it is our responsibility as humans to make sure that all have the opportunity to live a beautiful life, not just the privileged few."

Lynch is the co-founder of a campus organization that supports women of color called L.O.V.E.—an acronym that stands for "Living Our Vision Every Day." The group, which prides itself on sisterhood and unity, participated by hosting an interactive discussion about diversity, inclusion, alliances, and the #BlackLivesMatter movement. "I was personally engaged in my classes to talk about these topics with various groups," she says.

She believes that the event was beneficial and eye-opening, as it addressed racial injustice

in the criminal justice system, the Pulse massacre in Orlando, and the "implications for those that are marginalized within the LGBT community." Students and faculty also discussed the Constitution and how it functions through racial lenses.

Other components of the event included a visit from Marjorie Esman, the executive director of the ACLU, who led a discussion on race and voting rights. Individual instructors integrated topics for teach-ins into a variety of disciplines including English, history, nursing, and even chemistry. There were also seminars on oppression and racial erasure and economic and racial disparities in health care.

Discussion topics were challenging and complicated, but many participants felt that it offered a sense of healing. "It was cathartic to have spaces to talk about situations that we experience as people of color in America from our perspective with people who understand and even those who don't," Lynch says. "Most of the time, we don't have spaces where we are able to come together to speak on what affects us."

Howard echoes the sentiment. "Our awesome staff, many of whom are experts on these topics, had an opportunity to provide lectures that they don't always get to do," she says. "I think the university benefited in that we continue to be community leaders and follow our Ignatian values to think critically and act justly."

Lynch also notes that fellow students were "very receptive and willing to have conversations . . . Thinking about action that is needed to make change is a key element to seeing that change come to fruition."

Howard hopes to make United For Racial Justice Week a yearly event. "We want it to be a keystone event that reflects what the university is all about . . . This is the essence of a Jesuit education and particularly Loyola's commitment to putting this knowledge into action. Specifically, it speaks to the following Jesuit values: respect for the world, its history and mystery; learning from experience; contemplative vision formed by hope; critical thinking and effective communication; special concern for the poor and oppressed; linking faith with justice; international and global perspective; discerning mindset; and finding God in all things."

Murphy agrees that the event reflected the Jesuit values of the university: "We are committed to being men and women for and with others."

# LOYOLA UNITED FOR RACIAL JUSTICE WEEK

## September 12–18

### Teach-In on Racial Justice

Faculty across the disciplines devote class time to a teach-in on racial justice.

## September 12

### Race and Voting Rights

Marjorie Esman

Executive Director of the Louisiana ACLU

Hosted by the University Honors Program

## September 15

### Mini-Seminars on Racial Justice

Featuring faculty and staff discussion leaders including the Rev. Kevin Wildes, S.J.; Bill Quigley; Ashley Howard; Rae Taylor; Laura Murphy; Courtney Williams; Liv Newman; Sue Weishar; Uriel Quesada; Nikki Eggers; and Sanjog Rupakheti

Mini-seminar topics include

**Oppression**

**Racism in the Criminal Justice System**

**Pulse Massacre and Its Implications for Minorities**

**Racial Erasure**

**Economic and Racial Disparities in Health Care**

Breakout Session

**"Where Do We Go From Here?"**

Discussion with African and African-American studies affiliate faculty



# *In a* Mission

BY SARAH RAVITS



## The Office of Mission and Ministry aims to get high school students engaged in community service, scripture, and care for the environment.

**W**ith the goal of encouraging high school juniors and seniors to explore scripture and bridge the gap between faith and science, Loyola

University New Orleans established the FaithActs Youth Theology Institute, a one-week residential institute that will take place during the summer of 2017. The program was funded thanks in part to a generous \$600,000 grant awarded to the university from the Lilly Foundation last year.

Program organizers at the Office of Mission and Ministry, including John Sebastian, Ph.D., vice president for Mission and Ministry, and Alex Mikulich, Ph.D., were deeply inspired by the words of Pope Francis' encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, which was published in May 2015. In the letter, the Holy Father wrote: "Young people demand change. They wonder how anyone can claim to be building a better future without thinking of the environmental crisis and the sufferings of the excluded."

The encyclical went on to address climate change, pollution, loss of biodiversity, and depletion of natural resources and called for a shift in attention to the personal ethics of environmental stewardship. "The ecological crisis is also a summons to profound interior conversion," he wrote.

The pope's words dovetail with the objectives of Mission and Ministry employees, who seek to foster Loyola's Jesuit and Catholic mission and identity and educate the Loyola community about its spiritual heritage.

The summer program will teach teenagers about environmental science, spirituality, and the link between the two. It will also engender a sense of compassion and togetherness for those who have been affected by natural disasters. It promises to be an immersive experience, guiding the teenagers through the wetlands and New Orleans neighborhoods and offering social analysis, theological reflection, recreational time, personal and group spiritual reflection, and community service. Students can earn three college credits and have the opportunity to earn high school service hours.

"We will give [the students] a theological framework for ecological challenges and explore ways they can take action, addressing a social and environmental need," Sebastian says.

Sebastian notes that many of the students coming into the program may be at somewhat of a crossroads in their spiritual lives, and the week-long institute may help set a solid spiritual foundation as they are ushered into adulthood.

"Some of them may be at the point where they've been confirmed and have taken introductory steps of being an active Catholic or

Christian, but maybe they haven't developed a fully formed adult faith life," he says. But with in-depth lessons, discussions, reflection time, bonding activities, and community service, he hopes that the summer institute will help set them on a path to forging a deeper spiritual connection.

"There will be individual as well as group opportunities for prayer, liturgy, and guided reflection time," Sebastian says. "It will be both an intellectual and a spiritual experience."

The program seeks to recruit somewhere between 30 and 40 high school students and is currently accepting applications.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,** contact the Office of Mission and Ministry at [mission@loyno.edu](mailto:mission@loyno.edu) or (504) 865-3226.

# Finishing Strong

Dr. Chris Wiseman '88 leads the Office of Institutional Advancement into the final phase of the **Faith in the Future** campaign.

**THE OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT** is reorganizing under new leadership to position Loyola for success in the final phase of the Faith in the Future campaign.

Bill Bishop retired as vice president of Institutional Advancement this past summer after six years in the position. With the unanimous concurrence of the members of the Cabinet, other campus leaders including Faculty and Staff Senate leaders, and the leadership of the university's Board of Trustees, Dr. Chris Wiseman '88 (political science and philosophy) was promoted to vice president of Institutional Advancement by Loyola President the Rev. Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.

Since 2010, Wiseman had worked as Bishop's associate vice president, leading Loyola's fundraising efforts and working with alumni, staff, faculty, and friends of Loyola to garner philanthropic investments to fund the work of Loyola's students and faculty. Their work together resulted in over \$60 million raised toward Faith in the Future's \$100 million goal. From 2012 to 2016, generous donors have



From left, **LAURIE EICHELBERGER LEIVA '03, M.Ed.**; **CLAIRE SIMNO '72, Ph.D.**; and **CHRIS WISEMAN '88, Ph.D.**, have all assumed new leadership roles on the Institutional Advancement team.

yielded more gift income for Loyola than in any other four-year period in Loyola history.

After Jesuit High School of New Orleans and Loyola, Wiseman received an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia. He has worked in education for 26 years, with 15 years in higher education, and serves as a

part-time instructor in Loyola's Department of Political Science. Wiseman's two older sons are current Loyola students, his daughter is a student at fellow Jesuit institution Seattle University, and his youngest son is in middle school in New Orleans. Wiseman is married to Dana Pellegrin '93 (biology).

Upon assuming his new position, Wiseman promoted Laurie Eichelberger Leiva '03 (psychology), M.Ed., to assistant vice president for alumni engagement and Claire Simno '72 (sociology), Ph.D., to assistant vice president for stewardship and donor services.

Leiva has been with Loyola since 2011 and brings to her work previous alumni affairs experience from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, Wash., and the Carolina Alumni Association at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, S.C. She has more than 14 years of volunteer recruitment and management experience and holds a master's degree in higher education administration from the University of South Carolina. She is married to Michael Leiva '02 (communication), and they have two children.

Simno returned to her alma mater in 2009 to develop the Office of Stewardship & Donor Relations, strengthen donor trust in the use of their gifts, and further engage the community in Loyola's educational mission. Prior to her tenure in Institutional Advancement, she established herself as a successful local entrepreneur, business manager, fundraiser, and mother. She has been active in the community, serving as a leader in many civic, philanthropic, and cultural organizations, and because of her dedication to her church parish and Catholic education, she was awarded the Order of St. Louis IX Medallion by the Archdiocese of New Orleans. She is married to George Simno '68 (business administration), J.D. '71; they are each children of Loyola graduates, siblings of Loyola alumni, and the parents of two Loyola-educated sons. Together with her husband, she was honored in 2005 with Loyola's Adjutor Hominum Award. She remains committed to her family, her Catholic faith, and the Loyola community she serves.

"Loyola is blessed with generous alumni and friends," Wiseman says. "In our Advancement staff, they will find partners—graduates of Loyola as well as other great institutions—with broad experience from all over the world. Laurie, Claire, our colleagues in Greenville Hall, and I love our work helping alumni and other donors use their generosity to change lives at Loyola and beyond."

# HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

## Basketball court renamed First NBC Court after \$1.5 million gift.



Vice President of Student Affairs **DR. M.L. "CISSY" PETTY** and First NBC Bank President and CEO **ASHTON J. RYAN JR.**, both center, celebrate the partnership between Loyola and First NBC along with **DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS BRETT SIMPSON '96, M.B.A. '03**, far right, and Loyola student-athletes.

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS and First NBC Bank have formed a philanthropic partnership that is bringing fantastic updates to our University Sports Complex in the coming years.

Thanks to a generous \$1.5 million gift from First NBC, our game court is receiving a significant renovation, including a new floor, new bleachers, new lighting, and other upgrades.

For its multiyear gift commitment, First NBC Bank has received naming rights for the court through 2031. It will now be called First NBC Court.

"Student-athletes at Loyola University New Orleans work tirelessly, and we are proud to recognize their successes and contribution to our community," First NBC Bank President and CEO Ashton J. Ryan Jr. says. "Our entire banking team applauds the efforts these young people put forth in the classroom and on the courts."

Loyola Vice President of Institutional Advancement Chris Wiseman '88 (philosophy and political science), Ph.D., adds: "Mr. Ryan and the First NBC team have a great vision of higher education and how the discipline and rigors of athletics contribute to campus life and to our students' education. We are grateful to First NBC, our Faith in the Future Campaign Co-Chair Derby Gisclair '73, and Loyola staff member Renny Simno '98 for their work together to make this generous gift a reality. Our students, coaches, and indeed the entire campus

community will benefit for years to come. It is a new day for the Wolf Pack!"

Loyola's men's and women's basketball, volleyball, and competitive cheer and dance teams both practice and compete in the facility, and student, faculty, staff, and New Orleans residents use the space for intramurals and other recreational activities.

"We are honored to establish this partnership and look forward to a long and strong relationship with First NBC Bank, as well as many joyous and exciting games here at the beautifully transformed First NBC Court at Loyola," Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. M.L. "Cissy" Petty says.

The renovation of the University Sports Complex began this past June with the addition of new lighting and aesthetic improvements throughout the facility. Installation of permanent bleachers and a reconfigured game floor will take place next summer.

"This gift allows us to transform the University Sports Complex into a facility that greatly benefits the entire Loyola community and enriches student life," Loyola Director of Athletics Brett Simpson '96 (communication), M.B.A. '03, says. "It will enable us to improve our game day experience for our fans; better serve our growing athletic program; and improve the recreational needs of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni who utilize the facility. It is an exciting time to be a part of Wolf Pack athletics."

# Alumni EVENTS

## Alumni Weekend

Alumni Weekend was held June 3-5, 2016, and alumni enjoyed field trips around New Orleans, classes taught by Loyola faculty, and a jazz brunch at the Audubon Tea Room. The classes of 1966, 1976, 1986, 1991, 1996, and 2006 celebrated their reunions.



## Crawfish Boils

**1** Houston alumni and longtime friends group up for a picture during their annual crawfish boil held at the Houston Heights Woman's Club on April 16, 2016.



**2** Father James Carter H '95 joins Northshore alumni at their annual spring crawfish boil held at the home of George Long '78 and Courtney Blitch '79 on May 15, 2016.



**3** From left, Nathan Wilson, husband of Andrea Ganier '06; Abby Royal '98, M.B.A. '03; Jerrell Royal; and Mike Prewitt celebrate with their crawfish boil all together in Kansas City at the home of Julie Prewitt '04 on May 7, 2016.



**4** Atlanta alumni David Zelaya '12 and Matt Decker Simmons '08 have fun at the Atlanta Chapter Crawfish Boil on April 16, 2016, hosted by Mike Blackstock '98.



**5** New York City-area alumni gather at the Parkside Lounge, owned by Chris Lee '98, for the annual crawfish boil.



**6** Denver alumni gather together to watch their cooks begin their delicious crawfish boil held at Max Gill & Grill on May 6, 2016.

**7** Alumni and friends huddle together to take pictures during the annual Chicago Crawfish Boil at McGee's Tavern on May 21, 2016.

**8** Dallas-area alumni enjoy crawfish at the home of Matt Kropp '06.

**9** Alumni in the Washington, D.C., area attended the annual Louisiana College Coalition Crawfish Boil, the Bayou Fete, the largest crawfish boil north of the Mississippi.

## Beggars Reunion

The Beggars Fraternity Alumni Reunion was held at Magazine Po-Boy & Sandwich Shop in August. Over 90 guests attended, including 50 Beggars alumni from the 1960s and 1970s.



## Rangers Game

Alumni gather to watch the Dallas Texas Rangers game on July 30, 2016, hosted by David Pels '76, J.D. '79.



## Happy Hour

St. Louis alumni held a happy hour at Schlafly Bottleworks on July 21, 2016. From left, Steven McLaughlin '00, Loyola representative Caroline Gernhauser, Charles McLaughlin, Matt Bruns '98, Ed Knoten '00, and Jarrod Kincaid '99



## Chicago Send-Off

The Chicago chapter, hosted by Loyola parent and former trustee Kevin Poorman, gets together annually to give out a scholarship in support of a student from the Chicago area. Mr. Poorman cooked barbecue for everyone!



## Alpha Delta Gamma Anniversary

Alumni of Alpha Delta Gamma Fraternity gathered on campus on Sept. 10, 2016, to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Epsilon Chapter of Alpha Delta Gamma Fraternity on Sept. 10, 1932.



## Spring Social

The Young Alumni Pack held its Spring Social at Mid City Yacht Club on May 26, 2016.

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

**Alumni Weekend  
June 2-4, 2017**



# A Whole New Ballgame

BY FRITZ ESKER '00

**THROUGHOUT THEIR 50 YEARS** of existence, the Saints' archrival has remained constant: the Atlanta Falcons. So it was a little awkward when Loyola graduate, Metairie native, and lifelong member of the Who Dat Nation Brandi Boatner '05 (communication), a digital experience manager at IBM since 2010, found herself working with, you guessed it, the Atlanta Falcons.

The Falcons are building a state-of-the-art stadium for the 2017 season, and everyone working on the project knows that, in the smartphone era, fans like to remain connected at sporting events and share photos on Facebook or Instagram. Most stadiums' WiFi is iffy at best, however, and the Falcons wanted to make sure the connectivity was top-notch in the new stadium. IBM is building the infrastructure to make this a reality. Boatner, who majored in the public relations sequence, spreads the word about the project and its progress for IBM.

"People want to be able to connect to their phones at the game," Boatner says. "If WiFi is shoddy, it tarnishes the fan experience."

In addition to in-game WiFi, the Falcons want their fans to have a better experience before they even leave their homes. Imagine if fans received information on their phones about which spot to park in and which gate to enter through before arriving at the game. And imagine if during the game, fans could check on restroom lines from their seats so they could pick an optimal time for a bathroom break. The most interesting capability is letting fans pre-order concessions by using data from previous concession stand purchases by season ticket holders. If a fan typically gets a beer and a pretzel, for instance, he will be messaged pre-game and

asked if he wants to pre-order it and have it ready for pickup on arrival.

Even though she remains a loyal Saints fan, the project has been a lot of fun for Boatner.

"The Falcons' front office and business operations people are some of the nicest people I've ever worked with," Boatner says.

She credits Loyola with giving her a strong background in public relations, as well as in

critical thinking and writing. These skills have been invaluable to her in her career. Since her mother was pregnant with her when she earned her master's from Loyola, Boatner likes to tell people she has two degrees from Loyola.

"I would not be at IBM if I did not receive the education I received," Boatner says.

# Class Notes

## 1950s

**Harold Lamy, J.D. '52**, recently served as lay master of ceremonies of the Southeastern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, where he has attained the rank of Knight Grand Cross.

## 1960s

**Bob Menard '60 (business), J.D. '60**, recently retired from The Catholic Foundation after serving 16 years as the planned giving director.

**Herbert W. Marks, M.D., '64 (biology)** retired from teaching and practicing otology and neurotology at LSU, East Jefferson General Hospital, and Children's Hospital after 37 years. He also served in the U.S. Navy and Navy Medical Corps for eight years. He is past president of the Jefferson Parish Medical Society and past chief of staff at East Jefferson General Hospital. In 2016, he was elected to the Louisiana State Medical Society Hall of Fame, the highest professional award a Louisiana physician can receive.

**Charles Emile "Peppi" Bruneau Jr. '64 (sociology), J.D. '66**, of Eagan Insurance Agency LLC was named to New Orleans *CityBusiness*' Leadership in Law Class of 2016.

**Margaret "Peggy" Condron '69 (chemistry and secondary education)**, a Loyola trustee, received an honorary degree from the University of Scranton at its commencement ceremony on May 29, 2016.

## 1970s

**Rob Snyder '70 (psychology)** published a book with Routledge Psychology Press in March titled *The Social Cognitive Neuroscience of Leading Organizational Change*. The book is being

lauded as a game-changer for understanding organizational behavior through the lens of the latest research in neuroscience and applying the findings of that research creatively to improve organizational performance. For his book and related writings, he was awarded the 2016 Michael A. and Elizabeth Ruane National Award for Innovation in Business Education Writing.

**Bill Capo '75 (communication)** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Press Club of New Orleans at its 58th annual awards ceremony. The award honored his 40-year career in broadcasting, including 36 years at WWL-TV as a general assignment reporter and action reporter.

**Wayne Fontana '73 (history), J.D. '76**, of Roedel, Parsons, Koch, Blache, Balhoff & McCollister was named to New Orleans *CityBusiness*' Leadership in Law Class of 2016.

**Lydia Glapion-Days '76 (journalism)** was selected as the Krewe of Pandora's 2016 queen. She is the first African-American queen to represent a multicultural all-female krewe, and she also held the title of co-founder and first vice president of one all-female krewe and executive director and float lieutenant of another all-female krewe. She worked with the New Orleans City Council to get the krewes permitted.

**V.M. Wheeler '78 (finance)** joined Chaffe McCall law firm in New Orleans as a partner in its banking and commercial transactions and real estate practices. A 30-year veteran of the legal and financial services markets as both an attorney and an investment banker, Wheeler is active in civic affairs and is a member of the Board of Directors of the Catholic Foundation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans. He also serves on the boards of Chateau de Notre Dame; St. Anthony's Gardens; and Aquinas College in Nashville, Tenn.

## 1980s

**Paul Dicharry '69 (political science), J.D. '81**, a partner at Taylor Porter, was ranked among the "Leaders in the Field" in Band 2 in the Louisiana environmental law category by Chambers USA.

**Margaret Taylor Schlaudecker '81 (communication)** was promoted to promotions director for Louisiana Public Broadcasting, a six-station public television network.

**Dr. Anthony Recasner '82 (psychology)** has been selected as the 2016 recipient of the Adjutor Hominum award, Loyola's highest alumni honor. Recasner, CEO of Agenda for Children, has been involved for more than 20 years in public education reform and other efforts to improve the lives of children and families. (See p. 43.)

**Steven J. Hubbell, M.B.A. '84**, was elected president of the Board of Trustees of The Catholic Foundation.

**Gary Segura '85 (political science)**, the Morris M. Doyle Centennial Professor of Public Policy and professor of political science at Stanford University, has been named the new dean of the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs. He will start his new job in 2017. He has been a member of the Stanford faculty since 2008 and serves as the director of the Center for American Democracy and the director of the Institute on the Politics of Inequality, Race and Ethnicity at Stanford. In 2010, Segura was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**Dr. Fernando L. Figueroa '86 (English)** started his new job as president of Gateway Community and Technical College on Aug. 1, 2016. A native of New Orleans, he has worked in higher education for 23 years.

**Tara Hernandez '87 (finance)** has been appointed to a five-year term on the Port of New Orleans' board of commissioners by Gov. John Bel

Edwards. She is president of JCH Development, a local real estate development firm that specializes in converting underused real estate into residential, commercial, and mixed-use redevelopment projects.

**Rodney "Tony" Ricard '87 (elementary education)** is the incoming pastor of St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in New Orleans.

**Stephen J. Roppolo '87 (communication)** was selected for inclusion in 2016 Texas Super Lawyers. Roppolo, the managing partner of the Houston and San Antonio offices of Fisher Phillips, is a seasoned veteran with more than 25 years of experience in labor and employment law. He has represented employers in matters of sexual harassment, discrimination, defamation, breach of employment contract, and non-compete/trade secret disputes.

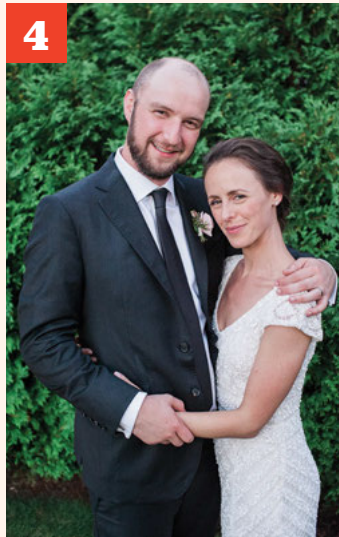
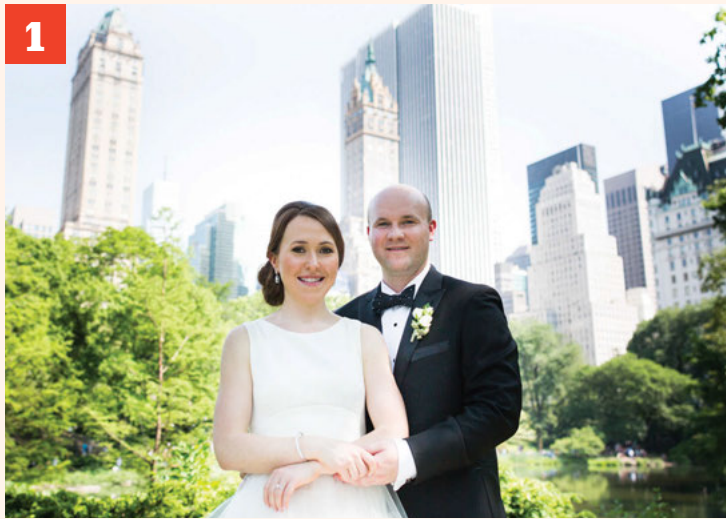
**Christopher Eck '88 (history)**, who works in historic preservation and lives in suburban Washington, D.C., published his new book, *Southern Maryland's Historic Landmarks*, with Arcadia Publishing. The book provides an overview of the historic sites in three of the state's oldest counties—Saint Mary's, Calvert, and Charles—and highlights many of the area's historic Catholic and Episcopal churches, colonial homes, and notable landmarks, including those of renowned figures of early America and the Revolution.

**Ross Romero, S.J., '89 (philosophy)** was profiled recently in the LSU alumni newsletter for his work as a priest, scholar, and teacher.

## 1990s

**Rob Connoley '90 (communication)**, James Beard Award semifinalist and winner of Best Chef Southwest, released his first cookbook, *Acorns & Cattails: A Modern Foraging Cookbook of Forest, Farm & Field*, in September 2016. The chef and owner of The Curious Kumquat in Silver City, N.M., Connoley has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Saveur*, *Sunset*, and numerous food-related publications. He held a book signing in New

# Weddings & Anniversaries



**1 Kevin John Carey '08 (communication)** married Mary Rose Murray on May 28, 2016, at St. Joseph's Church in New York City, followed by a reception at the Harmonie Club. They live in Manhattan, where Kevin works in media licensing and original programming at Major League Baseball and Mary Rose is a social worker at Mount Sinai West Hospital.

**2 Noelle Lyons '14 (psychology)** married **Phillip Cork '14 (music industry studies)** on March 12, 2016, at the Lakehouse in Mandeville, La. They live in Uptown New Orleans with their two senior rescue dogs, Thelma and Louise.

**3 Stephanie Breaux '12 (business management and marketing)** married Anthony John Dalmado IV on Nov. 14, 2015, at Holy Name of Jesus Church after eight years together.

**4 Wesley Swinnen '05 (communication and history)** married Amanda Noodell on Sept. 5, 2015, at Ocean Edge in Brewster, Mass. Wesley works in New York as a television editor, and they live in Brooklyn, N.Y.

**5 Ashley Nesbitt '11 (psychology)** married Anthony Hart on Aug. 6, 2016. She and her husband share a deep love of New Orleans, so they had an old New Orleans-style wedding in their home state of New Hampshire. "Bring-

ing that Loyola University New Orleans to the North!" she writes.

**6 Harold Lamy, J.D. '52,** and his wife, Yayi, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with a family party in New Orleans.

Orleans on Oct. 5, 2016, at Maple Street Bookshop.

**Courtney Sullivan '93 (communication and French)** is a professor of French at Washburn University in Topeka, Kan. She also recently published a book with Palgrave Macmillan, *The Evolution of the French Courtesan Novel: From de Chabrilan to Colette*.

**Rich Deas '94 (visual arts/graphic design)** has illustrated a third children's book, *My Thumb* by Karen Hesse, and is celebrating a decade at Feiwel & Friends, an imprint of Macmillan Publishing, where he is a creative director and illustrator.

**Harold J. Flanagan '84 (marketing and management), J.D. '95**, has been selected for inclusion in the 2017 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* for his work in appellate practice, commercial litigation, insurance law, oil and gas law, and construction litigation. This is the seventh time he has been included in this prestigious listing.

**Eddie Francis '95 (communication)**, a talent acquisition professional, was elected board chair of Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders, a Dallas-based nonprofit organization that helps job seekers from underserved communities build marketable career skills.

**Dr. Joy Allen '98 (music therapy)** assumed the role of chair of the Music Therapy Department at Berklee College of Music, one of the most prestigious music schools in the country. Prior to her appointment at Berklee, she was chair of Loyola's Music Therapy Department. She is an accomplished clinician, supervisor, researcher, teacher, and administrator with extensive experience in psychological well-being, pain management, and family systems theory.

**Dominic Massa '98 (communication)** was honored by the Press Club of New Orleans with its highest award for broadcast reporting, the Jim Metcalf Memorial Award. Massa, who is executive producer at WWL-TV, won the award for a documentary on the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. He also earned first place honors from the Press Club for Best Planned Event Coverage and Best Print Feature.

**Kristen Rouse '98 (English literature)** recently founded the NYC Veterans Alliance, a grassroots policy advocacy nonprofit, after serving three tours in Afghanistan. She was part of the Commander-in-Chief Forum with Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton on Sept. 7, 2016, on NBC/MSNBC.

## 2000s

**Mark G. Boyer, M.R.E. '00**, a part-time faculty member in the Religious Studies Department of Missouri State University, has recently published his 50th book, *Taking Leave of Your Home: Moving in the Peace of Christ*.

**Gregory Brandao, M.P.S. '01**, was elected president of St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, N.J., by the Board of Governors.

**Brandon Davis '01 (finance)** of Phelps Dunbar LLP was named to New Orleans *CityBusiness*' Leadership in Law Class of 2016.

**Erin Linn '01 (history)** has launched the nonprofit organization Integrated Heritage Project, which is dedicated to community development and the protection of cultural heritage through education to help developing nations protect and sustainably manage their world treasures. The goal is to provide education and training for local professionals and organizations so they can manage these sites without having to rely on international aid.

**Kristi Kay Chenoweth '02 (accounting and finance)** is now trading and derivatives manager at Motiva Enterprises LLC.

**Ana Gonzalez '02 (communication and Spanish)** was accepted as a novice with the Dominican Sisters of Peace. Her journey into religious life was chronicled by Connecticut-based *CT Latino News*.

**Ylan Mui '02 (communication)** of the *Washington Post* was recently cited by former chairman of the Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke in an article for the Brookings Institution about monetary policy and the U.S. economy.

**Robert Sheesley '02 (political**

**science)** was appointed city attorney by the Commerce City Council. Sheesley has been senior assistant attorney for Commerce City since October 2014 and will serve as the primary legal counsel to the City Council, boards and commissions, city management, and departments.

**Troavé Profice '06 (communication)** was nominated for a 2016 Millennial Award in the category of Education. She is the director of recruitment at New Orleans College Prep. Millennial Awards honor young professionals who are contributing to their communities in public service, in business, or as cultural ambassadors.

**David Robinson-Morris '06 (communication)**, former associate director of Alumni Relations, was honored by the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education with the national First Place Dissertation Award for his dissertation titled, "An Ontological (Re)Thinking: Ubuntu and Buddhism in Higher Education." Robinson-Morris received his Ph.D. in educational leadership and research with dual cognates in higher education administration and curriculum theory from Louisiana State University in December 2015. Most recently, he completed an Education Specialist Certificate in Curriculum and Instruction and Applied Research Methodologies.

**Everett Fineran '04 (finance), J.D. '07**, was recently elected partner at the firm Frilot LLC in New Orleans.

**Caegan Moore '07 (communication)** was honored by the Press Club of New Orleans with an award for Best Talk Show. A producer at WWL-TV/WUPL-TV, she earned the award for her work on *The 504* talk show. She also won a third place Press Club award for Best Use of Facebook.

**Nicole Sanders '07 (psychology)** was profiled by the *New Orleans Advocate* for her role as a human cannonball in the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. (See p. 18.)

**Trevor Boffone '08 (Spanish)** completed his Ph.D. in Latina/o literature and theatre from the University of Houston in 2015. In 2016, he founded the 50 Playwrights Project (#50PP), a

digital space to archive Latina/o theatre-making. So far, #50PP has featured 35 interviews with contemporary Latina/o and ally playwrights, including award-winning artists such as Luis Alfaro, Quiara Alegria Hudes, Josefina López, and Caridad Svich.

**Alex Burtzos '08 (music)** graduated with a doctoral degree in music from Manhattan School of Music in New York City and was granted the Saul Braverman Award for excellence in music theory scholarship. He plans to remain on the faculty both at MSM and Stevens Institute of Technology teaching composition, theory, and ear-training.

**Pamela Kauveyiakul '05 (communication and sociology), M.B.A. '08**, joined Anchorage Economic Development Corp. as business and economic development director. She will be responsible for creating and executing strategies to help grow and diversify Anchorage's economy.

## 2010s

**Brooke Neal Hartman '10 (marketing)** was nominated for a 2016 Millennial Award in the category of Digital Media. She is the creative director of FSC Interactive. Millennial Awards honor young professionals who are contributing to their communities in public service, in business, or as cultural ambassadors.

**Daniel F. Castro '11 (guitar performance/music industry studies)** was recently selected as a recipient of the International Scholarship Award of the Alpha Association of the Phi Beta Kappa Alumni in Southern California. The award is given to foreign students who are conducting graduate studies in academic institutions in Southern California. He was also given the Outstanding Teaching Assistant award by the University of California, Riverside, Music Department and Graduate Division. He is working toward his Ph.D. in musicology from the University of California, Riverside.

**Skya Abbate, M.P.S. '12**, who completed her degree in the first online program at Loyola,

## In Memoriam

Slavin P. Broussard '39  
Jean A. Dresner Spizer '43  
Lorraine Gitz Stennett '43  
Merle A. Rayner Fields '44  
Robert D. Gibbens '44  
Marion Schlosser LeBon '44  
Dr. Joseph A. Failla, D.D.S. '45  
Dr. Henry H. Davis Jr., D.D.S. '47  
Ralph Moskowitz, Pharm.D. '47  
Dr. Frank L. Herbert, D.D.S. '48  
Maurine Bonnacarrere Liuzza '48  
Jeremiah J. O'Keefe III '48  
Peter P. Finney Sr. '49  
Raymond J. Laborde '49  
Dr. Frederick W. Frey Jr. '50  
Paul M. Rivard Sr. '50  
Joseph G. Landrieu Jr. '52  
Vincent J. Perez III '53  
Michael E. Donlon '54  
Vera Hasling Catalano '48, M.E. '55  
Marion G. Dauphin '55  
Dr. C. William La Salle II '56  
Dr. Peter E. Brue, D.D.S. '59  
Dr. H.O. Blackwood III, D.D.S. '60  
Edmond H. Fitzmaurice Jr., J.D. '61  
Dr. Ernest G. Spivey Jr., D.D.S. '62  
Paul E. Ayo Jr. '63  
Renee J. Glindmeyer '63  
Richard W. Sandefur Jr. '64  
Dr. Hal E. Bailey Jr., D.D.S. '65

The Hon. Robert L. Freeman, J.D. '65  
Sister Jane F. St. Amant, O.S.B., '65  
Richard A. Cate '68  
The Hon. James C. McInnis, J.D. '68  
Joel C. Moore '68  
Charles W. Flink II '69  
Dr. Andrew J. Kreller III, D.D.S. '69  
Donald H. Loisel '69  
Charles D. McNeil, J.D. '69  
Councilman Amos J. Cormier Jr., M.Ed. '70  
Austin J. Dejan, M.Ed. '70  
Nerli T. Weber Grather, M.E. '70  
Dr. Patricia Nugent Jeansonne '70  
Dr. Warren B. Seiler Jr. '70  
William R. Fagan '71  
William D. Grover '71  
Janice J. Belk '72  
Jean E. Senac Jr., J.D. '72  
Melvin G. Sheppers '72  
Marcia A. Kraft D'Amico '73  
Daniel J. Schott '73  
Calvin A. Aguillard Sr. '74  
Grace A. Berger '74  
Robert G. Creely, J.D. '74  
Arthur T. Rumney '74  
Frank J. Stass Jr. '74  
Mary A. Deckelman Quaid '75  
Dr. Paul J. Bagley '77  
Dr. Mary M. Brazier '77  
Dr. James M. Croteau '79

Robert E. Orth, J.D. '79  
The Rev. Raymond R. Fitzgerald, S.J., '80  
Albert I. Donovan Jr., J.D. '81  
Ana Garrigo O'Loane '81  
David A. Harper '84  
Kim D. McGuire, J.D. '85  
Robert M. Kitchen Jr. '86  
Mary L. Brouillette, M.P.S. '88  
Karen Crosby Fulda '84, J.D. '88  
Patricia Eschbacher Heim '88  
Marie Hoyt, J.D. '88  
Stephen A. Yazbeck, J.D. '88  
Jane Gilbert Baker Buie '83, J.D. '90  
Diane E. Courselle, J.D. '91  
Mary E. Wendell, M.P.S. '91  
Dee O'Neil Andrews, J.D. '92  
Earl J. Primo III '92  
David Aplin '96  
Roseria M. Lipari, M.P.S. '98  
Gerald N. Gaston, M.B.A. '65, H '01  
Robert G. Lippert, M.P.S. '05  
Jane Blankenship Brown, M.P.S. '11  
Jesse Chance Briant '16

“Come, you who  
are blessed by my  
Father. Inherit the  
kingdom prepared  
for you from  
the foundation  
of the world.”

+ Matthew 25:34

graduated in May 2016 from the Stritch School of Medicine at Loyola University Chicago with a degree in bioethics and health policy. She will continue in the doctoral program in Catholic bioethics this fall. She has published seven books; six of them are children's books, which she also illustrated. All profits go to her company, Two Fish Foundation, Feeding Planetary Hunger One Book at a Time, which gives all proceeds to the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate due to her concern for the poor and oppressed that was cultivated during her time at Loyola.

**Erica Murphy '12 (criminal justice)** graduated from John Jay School of Criminal Justice at New York City in June 2016. She earned a master's of arts degree in forensic mental health counseling. As part of her education, she completed the Tow Fellowship and the Pinkerton Fellowship. She is now employed as a life coach with the Harlem Justice component of the Center for Court Innovation, a progressive organization that assists the incarcerated with the transition to society and provides alternatives to incarceration under court supervision.

**Ashley Shabankareh '10 (music education), M.M. '12**, was named a Top Female Achiever by *New Orleans Magazine* for her work within the community and as the director of programs for Preservation Hall. She also was nominated for a 2016 Millennial Award in the category of Music. Millennial Awards honor young professionals who are contributing to their communities in public service, in business, or as cultural ambassadors. (See p. 9.)

**Tyree Worthy '12 (marketing)** has self-published his first book of poetry, *25 Sense*.

**Bryce Eastwood '13 (music education)** had one of his original compositions, "It's All Alright," featured on *NCIS: New Orleans*.

**Alex Mayon '13 (music education)** won first place in the International Trumpet Guild's Orchestral Excerpts Compe-

titution. Mayon completed his master's degree at Eastman School of Music in 2015, and he and his fiancée recently moved back to New Orleans while he auditions for orchestras around the country.

**Brennan Peters '13 (psychology and English: film and digital media)** completed her M.F.A. in screenwriting at the American Film Institute last year, and her thesis film, *All These Voices*, won gold at the Student Academy Awards. Her film is now a qualifier for the Oscar for live action short.

**Malerie Thornton '13 (communication)** graduated from Purdue University with a master's of science degree in strategic communication.

**Shannon Donaldson '14 (communication)** was accepted to the University of Maryland's graduate program in higher education. While pursuing her master's degree, she also will be working as a resident director for the Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life. Previously, she was an admissions counselor at Loyola for two years.

**Ganiyu Jimoh, M.C.J. '14**, was promoted from sergeant to captain in the Baton Rouge Constable's Office. He is the first Nigerian in law enforcement in Baton Rouge, as well as the first Nigerian sergeant and captain in the state of Louisiana. He is adjunct faculty at Upper Iowa University's Baton Rouge campus and a member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives.

**James "Jimmy Flame" Thomas IV '14 (history/pre-law)** captured the North West Pro heavyweight title in June 2016. He has signed a one-year contract to wrestle for NWP and SCW (Japan).

**Rebecca Burns, D.N.P. '15**, a professor at Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Nursing, was honored with a DAISY Faculty Award. She says she attributes a large part of her success to her time spent at Loyola.

**Andrew Lorenz '04 (psychology), J.D. '15**, just finished his LL.M. in taxation at Boston University with a 3.74 GPA and won the Ernest Haddad Award from the BU Law Graduate Tax Program, which is given to the student with the best overall ability. At the end of June, he moved to Chicago to begin a job with Ernst and Young's National Tax Department's International Tax Services Group dealing with cross-border mergers and acquisitions.

**Annie G. McBride '07 (Spanish), J.D. '15**, joined the law firm of Stone Pigman Walther Wittmann LLC as an associate. She will focus her practice on corporate, business, and real estate matters.

**NiRey Reynolds '15 (communication/public relations)**, a member of last year's first place Bateman Team, has been interning at the Public Relations Student Society of America while pursuing a graduate degree at City College in New York. She was just offered a permanent position with PRSSA as student programs coordinator for the national office. (See p. 16.)

Do you know an  
outstanding  
Loyola alumnus/a  
who exhibits the  
values and  
philosophies of a  
Jesuit education?

Nominate him or her for the  
**Adjutor Hominum Award.**

Nominations due by  
January 31, 2017.

For more information, please contact Claire Simno, Ph.D., at [cdsimno@loyno.edu](mailto:cdsimno@loyno.edu) or (504) 861-5582.

# Living the Jesuit Ideals

BY FRITZ ESKER '00

## THE CHARTER SCHOOL MOVEMENT

has swept Orleans Parish in the past 10 years. But, contrary to popular opinion, it did not start post-Katrina. It began in 1998 with the formation of New Orleans Charter Middle School. Loyola alumnus Dr. Anthony Recasner '82 (psychology) was one of the school's founders—just one of many achievements in his long and distinguished career, which earned him the Loyola Alumni Association's Adjutor Hominum Award earlier this year, its highest honor.

The Adjutor Hominum Award honors a Loyola graduate whose life and work exemplifies the Jesuit ideals of moral character, service to humanity, and unquestionable integrity. Recasner, CEO of the Agenda for Children in Louisiana, is humbled and flattered by the acknowledgment.

"It means a great deal to me in that it's both a recognition of how instrumental my Loyola education was in shaping my life and my work and a way for the university to say, 'Job well done,' about my career," Recasner says.

A native of Uptown New Orleans, Recasner was not aware of the Jesuit ideals he would later embody when he first enrolled at Loyola. But on his first day of class, he met Fr. Hacker J. Fagot. He became fast friends with Fagot, and the friendship would endure until Fagot's death.

"He was a psychologist," Recasner says of his mentor. "He really helped to translate the Jesuits' mission of social justice into actionable work as a psychologist."

Recasner's career consistently demonstrates a focus on educating disadvantaged children. His approach isn't simply academic; it addresses the students' emotional and social needs, as well. In President George W. Bush's 2009 farewell address, he lauded Recasner for his work and held him up as an example for other Americans to follow.

The director of the Office of Teacher Education at Loyola, Dr. Jane Chauvin, M.E. '70, also has high praise for Recasner: "He is a man of integrity. I have never known him to use any situation for personal advantage. His thoughts are always for the good of the children of New Orleans."

Recasner also serves on the Board of the Greater New Orleans Foundation,



St. Andrew's Episcopal School, and the Louisiana Children's Medical Center, among other organizations.

Although Recasner is proud of his honors and his accomplishments, he believes he is

only one of many Loyola graduates making a positive difference in the world.

"The work of every graduate is important," Recasner says.

# Holding Court

BY FRITZ ESKER '00

**A RENAISSANCE WOMAN** is someone with many talents and skills. The term feels like it was created specifically for Justice Jeannette Theriot Knoll '66 (political science), J.D. '69, of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Knoll began her studies at Loyola in 1961 as a voice major. Her dream was to be an opera singer with the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. She earned a Metropolitan Opera Association and New Orleans Opera Guild scholarship to study voice at the Mannes College of Music in New York. But sadly, during her studies there, her mother died.

"God changed my life's course when He took my beautiful mother," Knoll says. "Not being able to bear her loss, I came home from New York and left my vocal studies."

When she returned to Loyola, she met a law student named Eddie Knoll (the man she would later marry). He told her she should try law school. She said she'd give it two weeks.

"Well, I fell in love with the study of law, and the course of my life changed yet again," Knoll says.

Looking back on her career, she is grateful for the education she received at Loyola as an undergrad and a law student.

"I believe it instilled in me a great love of learning and a commitment to study," she says.

After earning her J.D. from Loyola, she served as a first assistant district attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District Court from 1972 to 1982. She did this while raising five sons. One day, Eddie came home from work and told her there would be a vacancy on the Third Court of Appeal. He suggested she run for it.

"I never campaigned in my life, didn't know how to campaign, and didn't want to campaign," she recalls. "Moreover, a woman had never been elected to a reviewing bench in Louisiana history."

But Eddie made her believe in herself and helped her campaign. Her brother, Paul Theriot, campaigned with her throughout eight parishes. She put 40,000 miles on her car in the process.

"With their help, I can proudly say I have won every political campaign I have ever run—twice on the Third Circuit Court of Appeal, once against an incumbent for my seat on the Louisiana Supreme Court, and once uncontested for my final Supreme Court term," she says.

Justice Knoll took office in the Louisiana Supreme Court on Jan. 1, 1997. She will retire from that position at the end of this year. During her tenure, she has read approximately 58,000 writs and authored 184 Louisiana Supreme Court opinions.

"I consider myself a diligent student of the law. ... It is extremely rewarding to be able to serve the judiciary and the legal profession," Knoll says. "I'm very proud of the fact that the United States Supreme Court has never granted *certiorari* on any of the very challenging capital cases I authored."

Knoll has never abandoned her singing talents, either. She recently sang with the Loyola Chamber Singers at the annual Red Mass. After her retirement, she plans to help her parish church, St. Joseph's in Marksville, with its choir and liturgical music.

"I will relish being able to devote all of my time to my most important roles—that of wife, mother, and grandmother," she says. "I can't wait!"

# DO THIS

## Give Us a Name

Our current students and alumni already know the array of reasons to attend Loyola. We want to share our Loyola story with prospective students, too! Do you have a neighbor, a niece or nephew, or even a third cousin twice removed who is currently a high school student? Please share their information with us at [loyno.edu/LOYNOreferral](http://loyno.edu/LOYNOreferral). We'd love to make them part of the Pack!

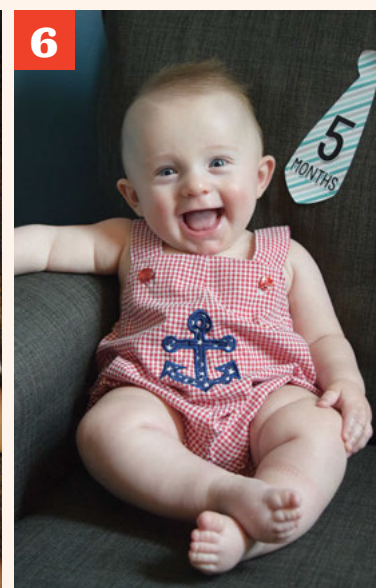
## Attend the 1912 Society Dinner

Enjoy a special performance by world-renowned violinist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, Christmas caroling with our student-musicians, professional holiday photos in the festively decorated Roosevelt Hotel, and more at the annual 1912 Society Dinner: A Musical Holiday Celebration on Dec. 8, 2016. Contact Claire Simno at [cdsimno@loyno.edu](mailto:cdsimno@loyno.edu) or (504) 861-5582 for more information.

## Make a gift for #GivingTuesday

Support Loyola on **#GivingTuesday**, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2016, as part of a national philanthropic initiative to kick off the holiday season. You can give to Loyola in two different ways: [giving.loyno.edu/Tuesday](http://giving.loyno.edu/Tuesday) or as part of the **#iGiveCatholic** initiative at [giving.loyno.edu/benson](http://giving.loyno.edu/benson)

# Births & Adoptions



**1 Mark Dean-Goodman '94 (sociology)** and his spouse, Alan Jay Goodman, finalized the adoption of their daughter, Anna Ruth Dean-Goodman, on June 3, 2016, in Washington, D.C.

**2 Rona M. Harris '99 (accounting)** welcomed Bayleigh Louise on April 14, 2016.

**3 Brian Newell '01 (economics and marketing)** and his wife, Elizabeth, welcomed their first child, Eleanor Ann Newell, in November 2015.

**4 Brandy Harrington Huynh '03 (accounting)** and her husband welcomed their first child, Raiden Lee Huynh, on Feb. 8, 2016.

**5 Monica Gongora Gordon '03 (math)** and her husband, Tracy Steven Gordon '92 (music education and saxophone) welcomed their second child, Donovan, in July 2015.

**6 Michelle Lucas Huck '04 (economics and history)** and her husband, Jordan Huck '04 (political science and history), J.D. '07, welcomed their son, Sterling Thomas Huck, on April 23, 2016. Sterling's paternal grandmother, Cheryl Tullier Huck '75 (dental hygiene), is also a proud Loyola alumna.

**Send us your milestones.**

New job? New baby? Got married? We want to share in your joy! Send us your wedding, birth, or job announcements, along with photos, at [magazine@loyno.edu](mailto:magazine@loyno.edu)



# Ben Temps

**KELSEY REINE,**  
a senior in the Theatre  
Arts Department,  
works on a costume  
construction project  
in the new state-  
of-the-art costume  
facility in Monroe Hall.

# March to Healing

**Take Back the Night marks its 25th anniversary in the Crescent City.**

WITH STATISTICS FROM THE RAPE, Abuse & Incest National Network indicating that 1 in 6 women has survived a rape or attempted rape and increasing attention being paid to rape culture and the prevalence of sexual assault on college campuses, Loyola's Take Back the Night event is as relevant now—on its 25th anniversary—as ever.

"Take Back the Night aims to bring awareness and a face to gender-based violence by allowing survivors to talk openly about their experiences," Erin Shapiro, a staff counselor at Loyola and one of the organizers of the event, says. "I firmly believe that the most important part of Take Back the Night is the support it shows survivors in encouraging them to speak about their experiences in a safe environment. For this reason, the speak-out portion of the event is extremely powerful, and many survivors who have never disclosed their assaults choose to do so for the first time at the event."

Take Back the Night is a national event that began as a peaceful march in the 1970s and now is held annually in cities all across America. New Orleans held its first march in 1991; Loyola partnered again this year with Tulane University, Dillard University, Xavier University of Louisiana, University of New Orleans, and Our Lady of Holy Cross College to host the event, which began at the Marquette Horseshoe and ended on Tulane's campus. Louisiana Rep. Helena Moreno introduced the keynote speaker, Tulane student Margaret Martin, at this year's event.

Shapiro says the event is a natural fit for Loyola because it highlights several of our Jesuit values: "Concern for the oppressed is there, as well as social justice, cura personalis, and forming and educating agents of change as we are hoping to raise awareness and call for an end to gender-based violence."

Leading up to the Take Back the Night march, Loyola held a screening of *Audrie and Daisy*, a documentary about two sexual assaults in the era of social media bullying. Following the event, there was a panel discussion that included Patricia Boyett, director of Loyola's Women's Resource Center;

Alexandria Kelch-Brickner, Title IX deputy investigator at Loyola; Margaret Reynolds, the Greater New Orleans regional director of Sexual Trauma Awareness & Response, or STAR; and Josef Canaria, campus sexual assault project coordinator for Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault, or LaFASA.

"The goal of this event is to candidly discuss the re-victimization of survivors in America and the ways in which we must work against re-victimization; to continue efforts to make sure that students are aware of all the resources available to survivors at Loyola and across New Orleans and Louisiana; to explain

in detail the processes in reporting sexual batteries and assaults as well as the assistance available to them, including student/faculty/staff advocates and Title IX procedural advisers; and to assure students that we will do everything in our power to help survivors," Boyett says.

Although raising awareness, supporting survivors as they share their stories, and community-building are the most immediate benefits of Take Back the Night, Shapiro says the event also raises funds for three local agencies that provide direct services to survivors: the Family Justice Center; Metropolitan Center for Women and



Children; and the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner, or SANE, Program.

"I consider [Take Back the Night] such a vital and powerful program," Boyett says, "because it gives all of us who work with survivors an important opportunity to reach out to them, to help them see that they are not alone, that they might find comfort in each other and aid in the many resources available to them, that they will understand that we stand in solidarity with them in their struggles for justice and in their path toward healing, that they can indeed survive, and that they may find meaning through helping others find hope and healing, too."



# Fine Print

BY SARAH RAVITS

**When honors students work with young authors to help them get “published,” everyone wins.**

**NOW ENTERING ITS FOURTH YEAR,** Mission Imprint, Loyola’s literacy outreach program, pairs a group of University Honors Program student-mentors with early elementary school students to foster a love of reading and writing and offer tutoring and mentorship over the course of a semester. By the end of the program, newly invigorated young writers will publish their work to show the skills that they’ve developed: Each first grade student authors a page, which is then compiled into a book.

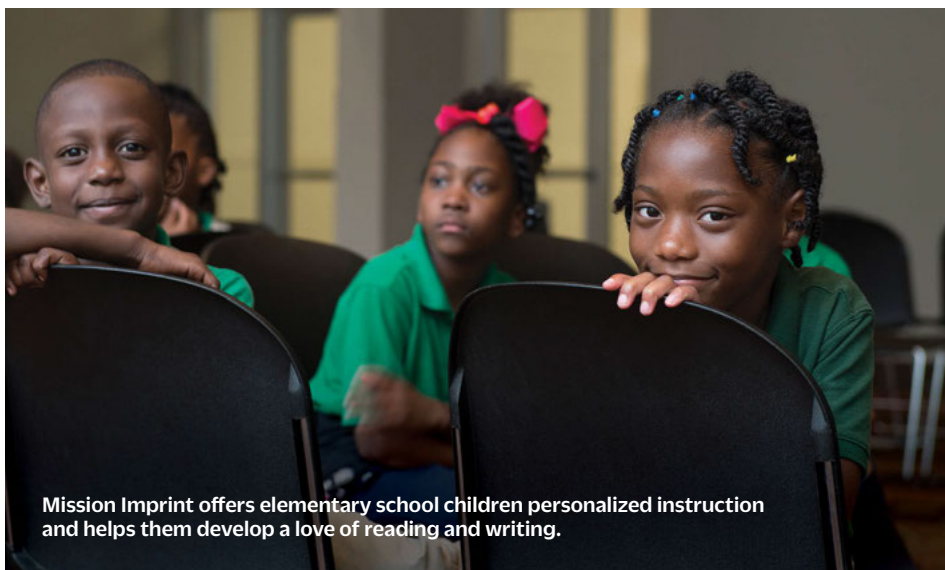
After working with ReNEW Cultural Arts Academy, Loyola recently moved the program to Cypress Academy, a New Orleans charter school now in its second year whose curriculum is designed to be especially effective for students with dyslexia and other learning challenges.

The concept of Mission Imprint emerged in the fall of 2013, says Professor Naomi Yavneh Klos, Ph.D, director of the University Honors Program, chair of the AJCU Honors Consortium, and vice president of the National Collegiate Honors Council. She and a student-mentor invited first-year Ignatian Scholars to reflect as a group on the following question: “What issue of social justice is important to you, and what personal gifts might you draw upon to address it?”

Louisiana’s poverty and illiteracy rate immediately came to mind.

“Louisiana has the third-highest poverty rate in the nation (and the fourth-highest percentage of children living in poverty), with 28.7 percent of people in New Orleans living at or below the poverty line,” Yavneh Klos says. “This poverty level has negative consequences for education in our city: In New Orleans, 39 percent of the population 16 and older cannot read at a fifth grade level. An additional 31 percent is reading below the eighth grade level.”

With Mission Imprint, Loyola honors students give the children personal attention



Mission Imprint offers elementary school children personalized instruction and helps them develop a love of reading and writing.

and individualized instruction and, in doing so, help combat the harrowing statistics.

The program reflects the Jesuit values of the university by teaching students to use their gifts to be “for and with others,” Yavneh Klos says. “We strive to find solutions to some of our community’s greatest challenges, and we are also very much in relation with the students and their school. Students learn how to work with the community rather than thinking they will find the answer by themselves.”

In addition to meeting with honors students, the children have the opportunity to interact with some of Loyola’s own published authors and faculty. Plus, says Yavneh Klos, when they receive the book that highlights their efforts, “They are proud to share with family and to remind themselves that they are readers and writers.”

Another positive outcome of the program? Many of the Loyola honors students discover how much they love teaching and decide that they will pursue a career in early education.

## THEN

The New Orleans Conservatory of Music and Dramatic Art was founded by Dr. Ernest E. Schuyten (1881-1974), a violinist from Belgium, in 1919, but when the Depression hit, he said, "We saw ourselves failing." To survive, his conservatory affiliated with Loyola and moved into McDonald Hall on the Loyola campus, where classes were held until the construction of the Communications/Music Complex in 1986. Schuyten served as dean from 1932 to 1953. In 1945, Schuyten's conservatory was completely absorbed by Loyola, becoming Loyola University's College of Music, the only Jesuit college of music in the U.S.



## NOW

Although music professor Sanford Hinderlie says that when he started working at Loyola in the 1980s, the associate dean at the time swore that as long as he was at Loyola there would never be rock 'n' roll in the School of Music, the new Popular and Commercial Music Program is wildly successful, having doubled in size in just one year. Loyola's College of Music and Fine Arts remains the pre-eminent center of performing and visual arts study among all Jesuit colleges and universities throughout the United States and recognizes the historical role of music and the arts in the Roman Catholic Church. The 115,000-square-foot, four-story Communications/Music Complex provides state-of-the-art facilities for music and communications, including the 600-seat Louis J. Roussel Performance Hall. Students can study all aspects of music performance—classical and jazz, opera, and chamber music—as well as music education, music therapy, music industry, graphic design, digital filmmaking, dance, sculpture, drawing, painting, acting, and stagecraft.



# THE Sound of Music

# Graped Crusader

Bob Almeida '72 (management)

PHOTO BY HILARY BRODEY

Loyola was the place where I met my lifelong partner and true love, my wife, Debb. It also provided the foundation upon which the rest of my life was built. Indeed the privilege of spending four formative years at Loyola has forged my beliefs and shaped the arc of my life.

Loyola instilled in me the importance of the pursuit of excellence in all things, both great and small.

The fact that Loyola provided me with the opportunity to pair my business curriculum with numerous classes in literature, creative writing, religion, philosophy, and political science satisfied a thirst for knowledge while on campus.

Loyola also instilled in me the respect for the world and its mystery. This yearning led to seeking a posting in Australia, where we spent two wonderful years. While Australia is resplendent with natural beauty and almost limitless resources, it was also isolated, particularly in the context of a pre-Internet world. Those years taught us a truly global perspective, which we appreciate to this day and which would lead to further adventure.

With the opportunity to retire from corporate life at 56 years old, I wanted to continue to pursue service and giving back to the community as cornerstones in the next chapter of our adventure. I also wanted to pursue an interest in wine that was sparked during our two years in Australia. In the past nine years, I have served on the boards of several nonprofits that focus on using performing arts (another lifelong passion) as a vehicle for integrating and uplifting. In that

context, I am particularly passionate about reaching our large local Hispanic population as my parents both immigrated to the United States from Latin America. This focus on the less fortunate in our community was also, no doubt, influenced by the Jesuit ideals of concern for the poor and social justice.

As far as my other pursuit, winemaking, I am privileged to observe the infinite beauty of God's creation in the vineyards that provide the grapes for our wines. Knowing that I have fewer tomorrows than yesterdays, I truly appreciate each season of love in our vineyard.

We are honored to be able to pay back a small portion of the enormous debt owed to Loyola. Having the opportunity to attend Loyola on an academic scholarship enabled me to relieve my parents from the burden of providing precious financial resources for my college education. Moreover, the Jesuit education I received has influenced every aspect of my life after graduation.

## LAGNIAPPE PEAK

has created a barrel of Wolf Pack Cuvée and is donating \$20 from each bottle sold to the Loyola Scholarship Fund. The Almeidas hope to continue to find ways to support Loyola with their wines in the future.

Order online at  
[lagniappepeakwines.com](http://lagniappepeakwines.com)





# MAKE A GIFT TAX-FREE FROM YOUR IRA

**Now there is an easier way  
to give through your IRA.**

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 directly to Loyola from your IRA. Because we receive the gift directly from your IRA, the distribution bypasses you entirely. This means you avoid having to recognize the income in the first place.

For tax purposes, please  
make your gift by

**Dec. 31, 2016.**

[loyno.edu/give](http://loyno.edu/give)

## **YOUR BENEFITS:**

- 1.** Your gift will be put to use today, allowing you to see the difference your donation is making.
- 2.** You pay no income taxes on the gift.
- 3.** If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for the year, your IRA charitable rollover gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.

Contact the **Office of Planned Giving** at (504) 861-5752, or email Monique Gaudin Gardner at [mgardner@loyno.edu](mailto:mgardner@loyno.edu) to get started today.



OFFICE OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

6363 St. Charles Avenue  
Campus Box 212  
New Orleans, LA 70118-3538



CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
PPCO

*Greetings from*

**LOYOLA**

*Alumni Weekend 2017*

*alumni.loyno.edu/weekend*

*June  
2-4*