

Loyola monitoring federal research funding changes

By **ELENI DUTTA**,
edutta@luc.edu

Loyola was designated as an R1 Research Institution Feb. 19, meaning the university has total research expenditures exceeding \$50 million and confers more than 70 doctorates annually, according to Loyola Today.

A designation of R1 status is given by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the American Council on Education, representing the highest level of research activity in the classification, according to Carnegie Classifications.

Despite this milestone, many faculty members remain uncertain on how changes in the federal government could impact funding for future re-

search projects.

The Office of the Vice Provost created a News and Updates webpage to provide students and faculty with up-to-date information on how external and internal research may be impacted by shifts in federal policy.

The White House issued a memo Jan. 27 calling for a funding freeze in order to conduct an ideological review of all federal grants and loans, The Associated Press reported. Universities like Loyola began to plan ahead in order to mitigate any negative impacts of halted funding.

The memo was rescinded Jan 29, The AP reported, leaving the university in a state of confusion.

Meharvan Singh, vice provost for research, said the goal of this new

website is to clarify directives and eliminate confusion.

“Whether it was the executive orders or a memo from the Office of Management and Budget, it was kind of a confusing time and still is,” Singh said. “I just kind of wanted to eliminate some of the anxiety associated with just being confused over the falling of information that went back and forth.”

The areas universities are navigating are DEI programs and National Institutes of Health grant funding, according to Singh.

The federal government proposed capping indirect cost rates for NIH grants at 15%, The AP reported.

RESEARCH, PAGE 4



KAYLA TANADA / THE PHOENIX

Actors Jeremy Allen White, Ebon Moss-Bachran and Matty Matheson near WTC.

‘The Bear’ films at Water Tower

By **BRENDAN PARR**,
bparr1@luc.edu

The award-winning, Chicago-based drama “The Bear” spent a day filming on Loyola’s Water Tower Campus Feb. 25.

Production crew for the upcoming season filmed inside fine-dining restaurant Alpana, located at 831 N. State St. on the ground level of Loyola’s Quinlan School of Business, attracting a crowd of around 50 people — many of them students.

Actors Jeremy Allen White, Ebon Moss-Bachrach and Matty Matheson were spotted on site. A production assistant who requested to remain anonymous told The Phoenix Allen White wasn’t there to film and didn’t stay long.

The assistant said Allen White bypassed their “base camp” for checking in actors and seemingly left after picking up a copy of the script. The assistant also said although the production company is based in Los Angeles, the show’s crew is largely local.

Pink flyers were posted along West Rush Street, West Delaware Place, West Chestnut Place and North Michigan Avenue the previous day. The flyers indicated locations of filming for a production nicknamed “Four Seasons,” in reference to the show’s upcoming season.

The flyers claimed production would take place from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Feb. 24 and from 6 a.m. to 11 p.m. Feb. 26 — though no filming occurred the previous day, according to the assistant.

Early Tuesday morning, supplies rental company Haddad’s equipment trucks parked outside of the School of Law and Arrupe College. Both the flyers and trucks were ordered by Minim Productions Inc. — a Los Angeles-based film production company, according to their website. The flyers additionally cited address 2558 W. 16th St, the home of Chicago’s Cinespace Film Studios.

Chicago Police Department officers monitored equipment unloading outside Alpana and blocked cars from passing through West Pearson Street. Cartfuls of equipment lined the outside of Alpana, as craft foods were set aside for crew and a lighting crane was hosted in the air.

Between filming, actor and internet chef Matheson took photos with onlooking students spread across the street corners of Arrupe College, Mister J’s and CBD Kratom. Production wrapped by 5 p.m.

Neither Alpana nor Minim Productions were available for comment at the time of publication.

The next season of “The Bear” has yet to be given an official release date.

Brendan Parr is the Arts Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL A10 TOURNAMENT PREVIEW — PAGE 15



Chivers organizes fundraiser

By **MEGAN DUNN**,
mdunn9@luc.edu

Women’s basketball third-year guard Kira Chivers announced on her Instagram Feb. 10 she’d be organizing a fundraiser for Alzheimer’s awareness.

Chivers’ grandfather, Jack, was diagnosed about a year ago with early-onset Alzheimer’s, according to Chivers.

Alzheimer’s disease is a type of dementia that affects memory, thinking and behavior, with symptoms eventually growing severe enough to interfere with daily tasks, according to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Around 7 million people live with Alzheimer’s in the U.S., with the number expected to increase in the coming years, according to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Chivers said her grandfather’s condition has rapidly declined over the past year.

“Within the past year, my grandfather went from kind of fully functioning to now he’s in a wheelchair,” Chivers said. “He’s able to speak, but a lot of the time he’s nonverbal.”

Chivers said the situation has been hard for her family and especially her, as she and her grandfather are very close. She said he’s been her biggest supporter in everything she’s done.

Chivers said he was there the first time she picked up a basketball.

CHIVERS, PAGE 13



COURTESY OF JOE MAZZA

Directed by Deron Williams, the play is tied to the Black experience in education.

‘Notes from the field’ is unfiltered

By **MUNYA NOMAN**,
mnoman@luc.edu

The lights dimmed in the Newhart Family Theater as a hush fell over the audience. Above the stage, worn sneakers hung from the ceiling — a haunting reminder of the lives lost to an education system which never gave them a chance.

“Notes from the Field,” directed by Deron Williams, is a play tied with the Black experience in education and an indictment of social programs that fail the most vulnerable.

From Feb. 13-23, two rotating casts, referred to as the Gold and Maroon teams, took on the challenge of

telling stories drawn from real-life accounts of the school-to-prison pipeline. The production, originally a monologue by Anna Deavere Smith, took on new dimensions with added music and colorblind casting.

Williams said throughout the process of producing the show, the word “intentional” kept resurfacing. The audience’s discomfort was intentional. The raw, unfiltered footage of police brutality and news reporting featured in the play were intentional. The choice to have actors play different races and genders while speaking in a variety of accents was intentional.

NOTES, PAGE 10

West Ridge resident creates Little Lending Library for plants

NEWS, PAGE 5

Disconnecting from technology for mental health isn’t realistic advice

OPINION, PAGE 8

Graduating dancers cap time at Loyola with Senior Solo Showcase

ARTS, PAGE 11

INDEX

CONTENTS.....	2
NEWS.....	3
OPINION.....	7
ARTS.....	10
SPORTS.....	13

CONTENTS

NEWS

HGSA hosts annual conference with Sherman Thomas

Editor-in-Chief Griffin Krueger attended the History Graduate Student Association's annual conference "History in the World," which focused on the public history field and featured TikTok Historian Sherman "Dilla" Thomas as the keynote speaker.

HGSA, PAGE 3



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

OPINION

Damen is Michelin Star dining

Opinion writer Seamus Chiles Troutman argues Damen Dining Hall should be awarded a Michelin Star.

"Even Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM graces the hall with her presence. She was born before sliced bread and the NFL. She's learned a thing or two about where to get a good meal," Chiles Troutman wrote.

DAMEN, PAGE 7

ARTS

Jordana's Lively Premonition tour in Chicago

Arts writer Kevin Stovich covered bedroom pop artist Jordana's Chicago performance at Lincoln Hall Feb. 18.

"The following "Like A Dog" was more of an indie-pop cut, with blossoming guitar strums and shimmering keyboards giving way to a groovy chorus," Stovich wrote.

JORDANA, PAGE 11



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX

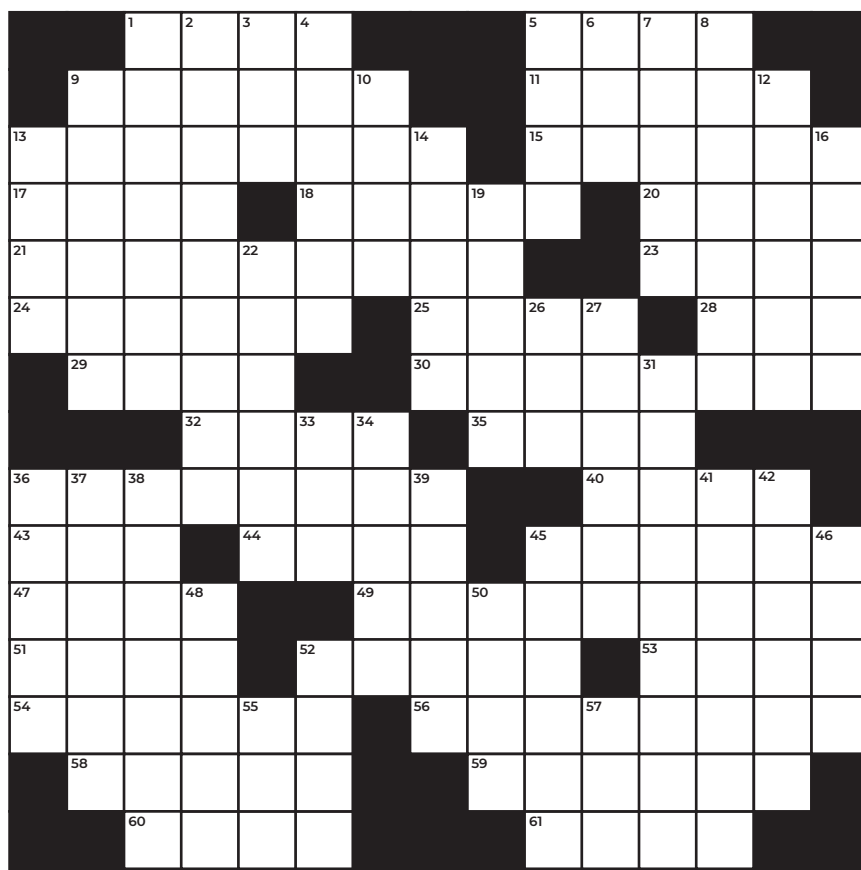
SPORTS

Women's basketball Sitori Tanin

Deputy Sports Editor Alexander Sciarra tracked women's basketball graduate forward Sitori Tanin's career at Loyola — from making the Missouri Valley Conference All-Freshman Team to being team captain.

TANIN, PAGE 13

THE PHOENIX CROSSWORD



MAO REYNOLDS / THE PHOENIX

ACROSS

- 1. Killer whale
- 5. Shoelace struggle
- 9. Cleans, as a collie
- 11. Ted of TV
- 13. Making a first appearance
- 15. Straighten
- 17. Sacha Baron Cohen character from Kazakhstan
- 18. Clay creature of Jewish folklore
- 20. Santa ____ (West Coast winds)
- 21. H2O in England?
- 23. Latin (and Spanish) for "frog"
- 24. Elevator alternative
- 25. Be ____ blanket (ruin the mood)
- 28. Corp. leaders
- 29. Ye ____ shoppe
- 30. Formal accessories from France?

- 32. This, to Tomás
- 35. Emphatic denial
- 36. Latvian counterpart of writer Morrison?
- 40. Opposite of staccato, in music
- 43. Mess up
- 44. Deliver
- 45. Porowski of "Queer Eye"
- 47. Volvo competitor
- 49. Italian color schemes?
- 51. One of the seven deadly sins
- 52. Pickle in South Asian cuisine
- 53. Fisher of "Wedding Crashers"
- 54. Nintendo "exergaming" product
- 56. Oversight
- 58. Begin
- 59. Stockbroker's advice
- 60. Every 12 months: Abbr.
- 61. Sudden breeze

DOWN

- 1. Like a planet's path
- 2. Vague conception
- 3. Makeshift bed
- 4. Gal pals, in Guadalajara
- 5. Supermodel Heidi
- 6. Family nickname
- 7. Leonardo DiCaprio finally won one in 2016
- 8. Wave of destruction
- 9. Trattoria treat
- 10. Mucus
- 12. Vitamin C source
- 13. Light touches
- 14. Gather, as information
- 16. Future 52-Down's exams
- 19. Nobelist Schrödinger
- 22. Seizes by force
- 26. "Green" prefix
- 27. Apartment dweller
- 31. Some Aesopian characters
- 33. Pedicure target
- 34. Where to watch "Saturday Night Live"
- 36. Mend
- 37. Isfahan inhabitants
- 38. "____ Falls" (Disney XD show)
- 39. Potato variety
- 41. Be made up (of)
- 42. Developer's unit
- 45. Broadcasting
- 46. "This ____ outrage!"
- 48. Without a doubt
- 50. Actor Malek
- 52. Courtroom fig.
- 55. Not online, for short
- 57. "Law & Order" spinoff, familiarly

Solution at LoyolaPhoenix.com/Crossword

This crossword was edited by Katrina De Guzman.

STAFF OF THE LOYOLA PHOENIX

Editor-in-Chief
Griffin Krueger
gkrueger1@luc.edu

Opinion Editor
Hailey Gates
hgates@luc.edu

Engagement Editor
Audrey Hogan
ahogan7@luc.edu

Business Manager
Isaac Norten
inorten@luc.edu

Managing Editor
Catherine Meyer
cmeyer6@luc.edu

Deputy Opinion Editor
Michael Clausen
mclausen1@luc.edu

Arts Editor
Brendan Parr
bparr1@luc.edu

Web Developer
Marissa Bui
mbui3@luc.edu

News Editor
Lilli Malone
lmalone@luc.edu

Sports Editor
Andi Revesz
arevesz@luc.edu

Deputy Arts Editor
Mao Reynolds
mreynolds8@luc.edu

Faculty Adviser
Katie Drews
kdrews1@luc.edu

Deputy News Editor
Hunter Minné
hminne@luc.edu

Deputy Sports Editor
Alexander Sciarra
asciarra@luc.edu

Staff Writers:

Munya Noman, Ryan Maddigan, Nate Varda, Faith Hug, Matt Sorce, Marisa Panella, Kevin Stovich, Zoe Smith, Eleni Dutta, Molly Hanley, Brianna Guntz, Megan Dunn, Rania Woodward

Deputy News Editor
Paige Dillinger
pdillinger@luc.edu

Photo Editor
Kayla Tanada
ktanada@luc.edu

CORRECTIONS

Report an error in print or online to phoenixec@luc.edu.

MEETINGS

Sports: Sunday at 5 p.m. in Mundelein room 408

Arts: Sunday at 4 p.m. in Mundelein room 407

News: Sunday at 4:30 p.m. in Mundelein room 406

Opinion: Sunday at 5 p.m. in Mundelein room 407

Photo: Monday at 6 p.m. in Mundelein room 407

ABOUT

This is the official, editorially independent student newspaper of Loyola University Chicago, distributed on Loyola's Water Tower and Lake Shore campuses every Wednesday, barring school breaks and examinations.

The Phoenix can be reached at (773) 508-7110 or by mailing correspondence to the School of Communication at 51 E. Pearson St. To suggest a story or join as a writer, directly contact a member of our staff or reach out on X or Instagram, @PhoenixLoyola.

More information and content is available on our Facebook and website, LoyolaPhoenix.com.

From the Editor's Desk: The joy in physical media

By **GRIFFIN KRUEGER**,
gkrueger1@luc.edu

Every day our world is more and more digitized. While my back is certainly counting its blessings, being spared the toil of lugging a heap of books and paper back and forth between campus and my apartment, there's another part of me — maybe the soul? — which longs for the analog age.

Of course, there's comfort in a book, and although our Gen X parents may still have their noses in E-readers, kids our age seem to agree on the virtues of printed books.

When it comes to assigned readings for class, however, there's not even a conversation — PDFs and web pages reign supreme. This is a shame.

There's something to be said for being able to pick up, hold, fold, smudge

and rip a piece of paper. The act of writing notes in the margins is far easier than adapting to each E-reading software's note taking and highlighting function. Hell, it presents the opportunity to doodle when you just need to zone out for a second.

There's even a utilitarian argument in favor of good old-fashioned paper. Researchers at Macquarie University in Australia found in a January 2024 study that readers retain information at higher rates when reading off physical paper instead of a screen.

While it's certainly convenient to pull a reading up online, perhaps in the long run we could save more time by avoiding needing to reread half a page because our eyes glazed over or we forgot key information ahead of a midterm exam.

This may seem like a silly thing

to lament considering I could be the change I want to see and just print out all of the readings I've been assigned — but I'm out of print funds and the website to add more is horribly unintuitive.

However, there are other realms where we can push back against digitization. In fact, if you're reading this in the print version of this week's Phoenix you're already halfway there.

Print newspapers and magazines present a much needed alternative to the digital news and information ecosystem. With a print copy you can fully absorb yourself in what you're reading, free from nagging distractions in the forms of pop-up ads and push notifications.

You can hand a magazine to your buddy and say, "Hey, I think you should read this," in an act infinitely

more personal than sending a link.

The convenience offered by digital music streaming services is undeniable, but those low quality digital files will never be able to compete with the warmth of the snap, crackle, pop sound that floats out of a vinyl record. Nor will Netflix's base-level offerings ever be able to stack up to the wide array of bonus features included on DVDs.

Basically, what I'm saying is you should fill your space and shelves with a bunch of small, collectible items that will serve as a great source of conversation with like-minded friends — but are also bound to make your life a living hell when it comes time to move out.

Griffin Krueger is the Editor-in-Chief of The Loyola Phoenix.



GRIFFIN KRUEGER / THE PHOENIX
Writing in print books is easier.

NEWS

TikTok historian joins HGSA for conference

By **GRIFFIN KRUEGER**,
gkrueger1@luc.edu

The History Graduate Student Association welcomed Chicago historian Sherman “Dilla” Thomas in addition to local leaders in public history and journalism at their annual conference “History in the World,” which focused on the public history field.

The conference was held Feb. 22-23 in the Corboy Law Center’s scenic Kasbeer Hall. The event featured research presentations by history students from around the country, panel discussions featuring public history experts and a student-led tour of the nearby Driehaus Museum.

HGSA President Lindsey Meza said this year’s conference built upon the organization’s efforts to further representation and participation in public history.

“As one of few public history graduate programs in the country, to be able to sponsor this event in a city that is so historically rich is something that is really important to establishing public history and solidifying the link between the public, public history and the academic world,” Meza, a public history masters student, said.

Public history is the practice of applying skills and methods learned in history classrooms in a context outside of academics and can include work in museums, archives, historical societies and neighborhood projects, according to the History Department’s website.

Following the conference’s broader theme of applying public history theory in the world, Thomas was invited to give the keynote address. Thomas discussed the importance of place-based history and how public historians can make lessons about the past more accessible, pulling from his own experience as a prominent TikTok and social media creator.

Thomas — who, with his work, tries to combat the negative stereotypes which circulate about Chicago’s South and West Sides — has amassed 117,000 TikTok followers, while his videos have been viewed over 20 million times, according to his company’s website.

He said he’s only able to do the research for his videos because he was able to access historical papers and research through library database accounts his daughter had while enrolled in college.

“If you’re not fortunate enough to have a kid at North Carolina A&T where you can get access, then there’s a paywall,” Thomas said during his address. “Now, history is not accessible to the people who live in the spaces that made the history

“Now history is not accessible to the people who live in the spaces that made the history important.”



SHERMAN
‘DILLA’
THOMAS

ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

Thomas, a TikTok star and Chicago historian, was the keynote speaker for the two-day conference at the downtown campus.

important. So once I get the information, I make a TikTok or Instagram Reel out of it and then it’s free.”

Thomas emphasized the importance of place-based history, an approach that puts a specific location at the center of the story, when applied to communities which have largely been ignored by mainstream historical scholarship, such as the neighborhoods home to Chicago’s Black and brown communities.

He pointed to the example of the Chicago Housing Authority’s “Plan for Transformation,” which saw the demolition of the city’s high-rise public housing buildings in the early 2000s, with the promise residents would be relocated into mixed-income affordable units. A 2022 ProPublica investigation found the agency had fallen short in delivering the units it promised, and many families were never resettled.

“A lot of those people have right to return promises, but if you didn’t know that that’s a thing and now we’re 30 years away from that and nobody’s telling you place-based history then your grandkids don’t know you have a right to return to that place,” Thomas said. “These are why the stories matter.”

Thomas had a closing message for

“people born in the ‘80s and the ‘70s.”

“Stop saying you don’t know how to use Instagram, don’t say that anymore,” he said. “Why? Because you know how to drive a stick shift. You know how to program a VCR. You know how to can vegetables. What we need you to do is put your stories on Instagram, encourage your grandparents to do that.”

Thomas also encouraged attendees to donate old family photos or possessions to local historical societies and museums so that history can be preserved and stories can live on forever.

Following Thomas’ speech, the HGSA introduced the weekend’s first panel discussion — Public History Theory in Practice — which included presentations by leaders of Chicago public history organizations who explained the different ways they’ve approached putting together accessible historical exhibits and monuments.

Tiff Beatty, associate director at the National Public Housing Museum which is set to open later this year, opened her presentation by performing a spoken word poem that explored the experiences and traumas of public housing residents during the Plan for Transformation.

The NPHM is housed in the only remaining building of the Jane Adams Hull House on the Near West Side and seeks to tell the story of people who lived in public housing and those who were displaced during the years of demolition.

“We really want to emphasize not only some of the issues that we’re fighting against but also what we’re fighting for which is community, housing and for everyone to have a place to belong and a place to thrive,” Beatty said.

Beatty said as a spoken word poet she was attracted to the NPHM project because of the opportunity it presented to incorporate the spirit arts and culture in the telling of historical stories.

Dr. Franklin Cosey-Gay, co-found-

er of the Chicago Race Riot 1919 Commemoration Project, took the mic next to discuss the work his organization is doing in building remembrance of the events of 1919 in Chicago.

Cosey-Gay said the project picked up steam after he and his partners were included in a youth violence prevention collective in 2019. He said while they were searching for ways to uncover the stories that tell the history of structural violence in society, they took inspiration from the way Germany has grappled with the atrocities of their past through wide-spread public memorials.

At first, the Commemoration Project led bike tours around the cities with stops at significant locations of the 1919 race riots, including where Black individuals were murdered.

“The ultimate aim was to use public art as a way to help people hear about this history, maybe not from a book, maybe not from a lecture but just from art,” Cosey-Gay said.

So far, the group has installed five markers at the sites where Black Chicagoans were killed during the riot, and Cosey-Gay said they hope to eventually place 38 markers in total throughout the city. He said universi-

ties can make important contributions to projects like these.

“It’s very important for individuals that are connected to universities to understand your role in helping build capacity and understanding it can’t be led by you,” Cosey-Gay said. “Community partners need to tell you what’s important.”

Chief of Interpretation at the Pullman National Historical Park Sue Bennet gave the panel’s final presentation, in which she discussed her work putting together exhibits for the National Park Service at the Pullman National Historic Monument.

Designated in 2015, the Pullman NHP includes several historic buildings which made up the Pullman rail-car factory and planned community in what is now Chicago’s South Side Pullman neighborhood.

Founded by George Pullman in 1880, Pullman, Ill. was one of America’s first company towns and an early example of strict community planning. Pullman, who made his fortune selling luxury railcars, owned and rented all the town’s houses to the workers who staffed his factory. In 1894 a strike broke out at the Pullman plant which soon spread to railworkers across the country, according to the park’s website.

As a Ranger for the National Park Department, Bennet said the task of putting together exhibits at Pullman presented an interesting challenge of telling the story in an unbiased way while not intruding on the work being done by community led historical groups.

Throughout the weekend, students who’d traveled from across the country presented their papers and research in the public history field. Jay Bateman, a Ph.D. student at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, traveled to Chicago to discuss his research on the repercussions of institutionalized racism in the early years of the U.S. Air Force. He said he chose to attend the conference because he was interested in its public history theme.

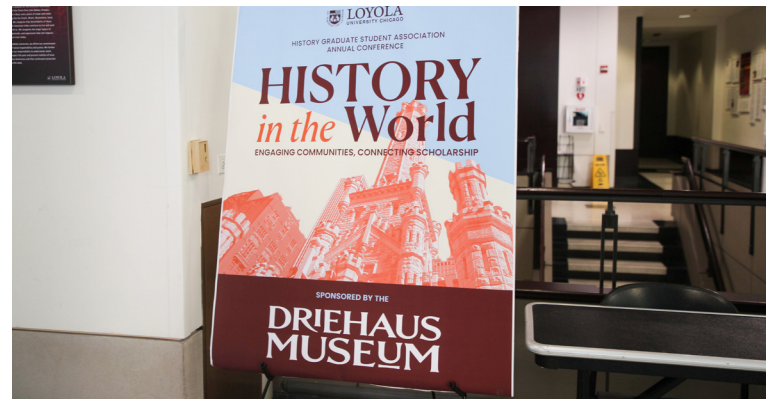
“Looking at history in public history in practice and how that relates to built up communities as well as understanding the impacts of race and social justice,” Bateman said. “I think the panel presentations so far have been phenomenal, I think it’s been a really good opportunity to get a lot of different perspectives.”

Griffin Krueger is the Editor-in-Chief of *The Loyola Phoenix*.



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

Loyola’s History Graduate Student Association hosts the summit annually.



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

Another one of the events was a student-led tour of the Driehaus Museum.



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

Over the weekend-long conference, history students from universities around the country presented their papers and research in the field of public history to an audience of their peers.

Education majors talk ICE in CPS



SEAN KENNEDY / THE PHOENIX

Education majors in residency at CPS are experiencing the effects of increased immigration enforcement activity in Chicago.

By **JACKSON STEFFENS,**
jsteffens1@luc.edu

Education majors working in local schools have seen changes in their classrooms as the threat of ICE grows in schools. Fear and uncertainty about ICE raids has contributed to a tentative and fearful atmosphere within schools.

The Trump administration announced an end to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy restricting arrests at schools and churches Jan. 21, The Associated Press reported. A federal judge restricted agents from entering a selection of houses of worship, The AP reported. Fear of deportations in Chicago schools heightened when ICE released a statement Jan.

26 stating it would conduct “enhanced targeted operations” in the city.

Loyola education majors work in Chicago Public Schools during their third and fourth years as a requirement for graduation. Some say they’ve experienced the effects of these changes firsthand as they shadow teachers and work with students.

Third-year English education major Leila Celio said she works at Taft High School in Norwood Park, where she teaches and observes two honors English classes.

Taft High School has a large Latino population, and Celio, who was born in Mexico, said ICE and deportation have been significant points of discussion among her students, especially

since the election.

“They are constantly asking, ‘Who did you vote for, what are your friends voting for, what did your family vote for,’” Celio said. “The political climate right now is a huge thing for them.”

Celio said conversations about politics and Latino issues happen often while students are analyzing poetry and during in-class discussions. She said she hasn’t had any talks with faculty at Taft about what to do if ICE comes to her school.

ICE officers haven’t entered any Chicago schools, though there was an incident Jan. 24 when Secret Service agents were mistakenly identified as ICE officers when attempting to enter Hamline Elementary School while investigating a threat to an official, The AP reported.

CPS didn’t allow the agents to enter the school, but the mix-up elevated fears within Chicago’s immigrant communities about the possibility of deportations and arrests being made at schools, The AP reported.

Celio is from the far Southeast Side of Chicago and said she remembers playing soccer matches in Back of the Yards — the neighborhood where Hamline Elementary School is located.

“That community is really close to where my family is, and it’s really important to know the City of Chicago really has our backs with these types of things,” Celio said.

In a Jan. 22 statement, CPS said they won’t share student records with ICE and will only allow ICE officers to enter schools if they produce a criminal warrant signed by a federal judge. ICE cannot enter schools even if they produce an administrative warrant, an ICE detainer, or another document issued by an agency enforcing civil immigration law.

Celio said she worries if ICE officers are able to enter school, it would cause students who are undocumented, or with undocumented parents, to stop attending school for fear of being arrested and deported.

In an email to the Phoenix, CPS Assistant Press Secretary Benjamin Pagani said they don’t monitor district-wide attendance after the first 20 days of school, so they don’t know if students have stopped coming to school in the wake of the Jan. 26 ICE announcement. Individual classes take attendance, but the data isn’t reported to CPS.

ICE declined requests for comment.

“There’s been a lot of students that have stopped going to school already,”

Celio said. “I know some friends from high school, their little siblings have stopped going to school.”

Stephen Woo, a third-year secondary education and mathematics major who’s currently placed in both Lycée Français de Chicago and Old Orchard High School, said he’s also afraid students may stop coming to school out of fear of ICE and deportation.

Woo said if students don’t come to school, they may have trouble meeting the requirements for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which provides protections for immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.

In order to gain conditional permanent residence through DACA, recipients must be admitted to an institution of higher education, have graduated high school or obtained a GED or be enrolled in a program to obtain a high school diploma or GED, according to The American Immigration Council.

Woo said he believes the Trump administration is threatening to make arrests at schools and churches in order to intimidate immigrant families.

“I don’t think they care about the students who are children of illegal immigrants, but it’s more of a statement that ‘I will get you, no matter the cost,’” Woo said.

Woo also said Latin American immigrants have been disproportionately targeted by the government, and targeting Chicago is evidence of this bias. Chicago has a 29.6% Latino population, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

“Ultimately, I think it’s a racism issue of people targeting students with darker skin and people who are of Latino heritage,” Woo said.

New R1 designation as vice-provost monitors funding

PROVOST, CONTINUED

This is significantly lower than what Singh said Loyola’s current rates are — 45% at the Water Tower and Lake Shore Campuses and 54% at the Health Sciences Campus.

“Many universities, including Loyola, are worried this will hinder research,” Singh said. “This funding supports infrastructure and the ability to discover solutions to major societal challenges.”

The university’s new R1 designation doesn’t necessarily grant increased access to federal research funding, but it does serve as a marker of Loyola’s accomplishments in securing grants and producing doctoral students, according to Provost and Chief Academic Officer Douglass Woods.

While many of these grants focus on environmental and social issues on the Lake Shore Campus, Woods said many may not realize the extent of work that goes on at the Health Sciences Center, with Loyola’s biggest sources of federal research funding being the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

Both organizations started releasing grants after two judges intervened and blocked the cuts in medical research funding.

For now, a federal injunction has placed the cost cap on hold, but faculty remain cautious. Loyola leadership is monitoring updates and working with the provost and finance offices to plan for potential changes. Leadership at University of Illinois Chicago wrote an open letter Feb. 10 criticizing these cuts and emphasizing the necessity of their research.

While faculty members have voiced concerns to him, Singh said he encouraged them to stay the course as he doesn’t want uncertainty to disrupt important research.

Associate Professor in the Department of Health Informatics and Data Science and Department of Surgery Francisco Iacobelli said he believes the new R1 status won’t shift expectations in research.

“I don’t feel pushed to do more research because of this,” Iacobelli said.

“It’s a recognition that we’ve been maintaining high standards, not a mandate to increase research output.”

With his research mainly being funded by the NIH and NSF, Iacobelli said he’s now considering private funding sources to mitigate potential financial instability.

“I won’t stop applying for federal funding, but I’m not putting all my eggs in that basket anymore,” Iacobelli said. “We’re playing with people’s lives when funding gets cut unexpectedly.”

Professor and Chair of Microbiology and Immunology Katherine L. Knight said she was concerned over potential funding restrictions, which could result from the Trump administration’s proposed cuts. While private and corporate partnerships may help with filling gaps in funding, Knight said these sources don’t provide the same level of support as federally issued grants.

She also said additional legislative proposals — like the bill currently in Congress aiming to restructure the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases — may create further delays in securing grants as the logistics of re-organizing the department get sorted out.

“This could cost Loyola millions in indirect costs from the NIH — funds that are crucial for infrastructure and supporting research personnel,” Knight said. “No one knows what’s going to happen, and faculty have been told that things will continue as normal, but we don’t know how long that normality will last.”

For students, research is unlikely to be directly affected in the short term, but Singh said funding reductions could eventually trickle down.

Third-year psychology major William Wade, who works with Dr. Stephanie Grella’s memory and neuromodulator mechanisms lab, said navigating funding uncertainty remains a challenge for research students.

Wade’s research — which involves studying substance abuse through long-term cocaine exposure in lab models — is funded partially by government resources like the Drug Enforcement Administration, which pro-

vides research-grade cocaine.

“A lot of our drugs come from the government, so that could potentially lead to us halting the project if funds from resources from government organizations such as the DEA would be halted,” Wade said. “Then we would kind of pass for the problems.”

Wade also said he felt concerned about potential funding shifts impacting undergraduate research opportunities.

“My main concern is that it’s already hard enough to publish the projects that we have in the laboratory,” Wade said. “Our projects require a lot of time as well as the rights for us to run the test for the cocaine.”

While Loyola’s new R1 status signals a growing emphasis on research, Wade said he remains cautious on how the transition might impact student research opportunities. He voiced some concern on whether the research applications may become too difficult or time confusing with the new title, but also recognizes the title is beneficial for the university.

Singh said the university is exploring alternative funding sources, including private foundations and partnerships with external organizations. Marketing and communication efforts

are also being strengthened to attract sponsors and donors.

Loyola has numerous collaborations with other institutions, both nationally and internationally. While these partnerships remain strong, funding reductions could make collaboration more challenging, according to Singh.

“Our commitment to collaboration hasn’t changed,” Singh said. “But without adequate funding, it becomes harder to maximize the impact of our work.”

Woods said navigating the complexities of federal grants requires institutional support, and Loyola is committed to helping faculty secure funding.

Singh said the university plans to regularly update the News and Updates page with factual, verified information.

“Our focus is on what we know,” said Singh. “Speculation doesn’t help anyone, but we are prepared to adjust as needed.”

Singh encouraged faculty and researchers to visit the webpage for updates or reach out to the Vice Provost’s office with specific concerns.

time confusing with the new title, but also recognizes the title is beneficial for the university.

Singh said the university is exploring alternative funding sources, including private foundations and part-

nerships with external organizations. Marketing and communication efforts are also being strengthened to attract sponsors and donors.

Loyola has numerous collaborations with other institutions, both nationally and internationally. While these partnerships remain strong, funding reductions could make collaboration more challenging, according to Singh.

“Our commitment to collaboration hasn’t changed,” Singh said. “But without adequate funding, it becomes harder to maximize the impact of our work.”

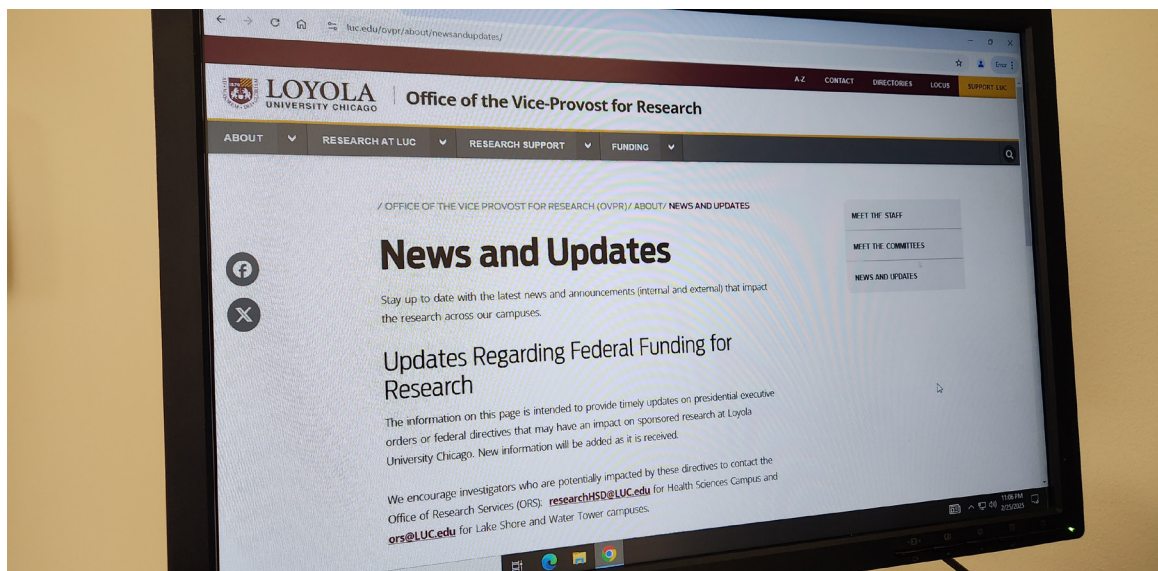
Woods said navigating the complexities of federal grants requires institutional support, and Loyola is committed to helping faculty secure funding.

Singh said the university plans to regularly update the News and Updates page with factual, verified information.

“Our focus is on what we know,” said Singh. “Speculation doesn’t help anyone, but we are prepared to adjust as needed.”

Singh encouraged faculty and researchers to visit the webpage for updates or reach out to the Vice Provost’s office with specific concerns.

Eleni Dutta is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.



HUNTER MINNÉ / THE PHOENIX

The new page provides Loyolans with up-to-date information on the effects of changes in federal funding policy.

Loyola's Share the Dream initiative

By **CAROL GARCIA**,
cgarcia@luc.edu

Educational training to support Loyola's population of undocumented students is now being increasingly offered by the Center for Diversity and Inclusion.

Share the Dream Ally training, aimed at spreading a wider understanding of the social and political strains which affect undocumented students, will inform students on current immigration policy, how it applies to Loyola's Jesuit mission and how to be a productive ally.

Graduate student Kevin Nguyen, who studies social work and is an intern for undocumented student initiatives in the CDI, said these three foundational components will lead students and faculty toward garnering action-oriented support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and undocumented students.

The new training sessions will join Safe Space training, which emphasizes support for Loyola's LGBTQ+ community, in providing thorough and personalized education to students by going in-depth on the personal experiences undocumented students face daily.

Although the CDI offered their training three times last semester, the office now feels a need to offer them more frequently given changes in U.S. administration, according to Nguyen.

Although these CDI trainings have been required for all SGLC student board members, they will soon be necessary for all members.

Third-year criminal justice and criminology and political science double major Yolenna Regmi served as the chief diversity officer of SGLC

from spring through fall 2024.

Before giving up her position to finish her studies at the John Felice Rome Center, Regmi proposed the training be mandatory for all SGLC members, including all executive board members.

After having undergone the training during her first year, Regmi said she recognized the significance of their effect as well as how accessible they were. Given most SGLC members were already required to volunteer at events around campus, she felt it was a good opportunity to spread more information at such a crucial time.

"They could definitely be taught to more students because the education is going to waste," Regmi said.

By being free and available to everyone, these trainings are the ideal way to support students through the wake of anxiety revolving around changes to DEI policies, Regmi said.

"This is a scary time for any marginalized student," Regmi said.

Being a student and community member of a diverse city like Chicago means staying mindful and educated of the entire student body, including undocumented students and LGBTQ+ students, Regmi said.

Regmi said the first step in staying educated is paying attention to like-minded people on campus and in the community. She said many students attend events hosted by student organizations to hear discussion they can understand and connect to.

Regmi said beyond the training, it's important for Loyola to continue to advocate for the minority groups on their campus no matter their relevance in the media. She



ASHLEY WILSON / THE PHOENIX

The Share the Dream ally training connects SGLC students with current immigration affecting undocumented students.

said certain topics only tend to be addressed and cared for when the press pays attention.

While Regmi said she believes educational institutions should be held accountable for behavior that merely reflects what the media covers, she said she also believes younger generations should keep themselves in check when it comes to performative

trends on social media.

There should be more emphasis on the concerning circumstances surrounding undocumented students and their education, such as having limited access to resources, Regmi said.

"Whether they are in the media or whether they're in public light or not, students will continue to experience them," Regmi said.

rience them," Regmi said.

Demonstrating consistent support for undocumented students is vital for all institutions, Regmi said. Although her studies at Loyola are coming to an end, she said she hopes to have made a change with her last proposal to have all SGLC become educated through CDI trainings and its meaning for future students.

Come Together Project kicks off

By **GAVIN ROS**,
gros@luc.edu

Senior Lecturer Brian Endless of the Department of Political Science posts one TikTok each day about the political division he believes is tearing America apart. His message is part of his initiative, the Come Together Project, which held a talk Feb. 19, co-sponsored by the Department of Political Science and the Interdisciplinary Honors Program.

CTP is primarily a social media project currently, but Endless said he wants to branch out by holding more talks to grow the project's prominence. He said he's already held several talks at universities, community groups and churches to promote CTP's message of unity.

The project's website lists four core beliefs — predatory capitalism as a primary problem, as is the purposeful division of society by elites, taking power back from the elites to achieve true freedom and the understanding of community as our greatest asset.

"The first piece is just to give people the tools to help stop the fighting that we've had in the U.S., and that's built up over the last 40 years, and where we've kind of built into two teams and politics and society has become a team sport," Endless said.

Endless said predatory capitalism is the first problem CTP confronts, but it's not concerned with capitalism as a whole. CTP's website defines predatory capitalism as a form of capitalism that works really well for the elite but poorly for everyone else. Elite domination of the economy and government — which he calls corporatism — is the main concern with predatory capitalism.

"I don't think American capitalism is capitalism in any meaningful form," Endless said. "I think it's corporatism. It focuses on corporations and the owners of the corporations. And I think, as opposed to a democracy, we've become a plutocracy."

The second core belief is that "elites," or a small group of wealthy people with disproportionate power and influence, purposefully divide the American public. Endless said the division in American society isn't primarily due to political differences.

"We can't talk to each other, and I want to suggest that's been set up on purpose," Endless said.

Endless said political action committees have stirred up division, particularly around what he deems culture war issues, such as abortion and gun control — issues that only gained relevance in the early 1980s due to activist groups creating coordinated political campaigns to influence public opinion on both sides.

"These are not natural things," Endless said. "The Heritage Foundation and three or four other groups started trying to actively politicize them and writing talking points that got them to make it a political issue."

Endless said political division in America has gotten worse, moving from a view of politics as a tribalistic sport to a vehicle for personal hatred.

"In 2016, when President Trump first assumed office, we saw a gigantic split in this country, where instead of just the team fighting, we started to hate each other, and we started to cancel each other," Endless said.

Endless said CTP's third belief is about taking power back from the elites. "I would say to students, to fac-

ulty, to anybody you know reading this, it sounds huge, and it is huge to change the system, but it starts with each one of us, and we can start in small ways," Endless said. "We can start by figuring out how to talk to our family members — how to stop talking about the culture war issues we disagree on."

CTP's fourth belief is about rebuilding a sense of solidarity in our communities.

"We've been pushed toward individualism in this country, and I think we are better, and I think history and society and economics all show we're better when we're a community," Endless said. "I think we need to take back community."

CTP plans to hold future events and incorporate as a club at Loyola. Jolie Brochu, a senior majoring in political science, said she's in the process of bringing together potential officers and starting the club formation process.

Ben Braun, a first-year majoring in global studies and political science, said he thinks CTP is a great opportunity for Loyola students to bond.

"I think it will create a comfortable setting for political conversations," Braun said. "This will allow for civil discourse to take place, leading to collaboration and true growth. I hope it will give the students confidence that together we can make real change."



KAYLA TANADA / THE PHOENIX

Endless encourages others to end the culture war by facilitating conversation on contentious topics and rebuilding solidarity in our communities.

Blue Skies Ahead

By PAIGE DILLINGER and LILLI MALONE

Chicago is gearing up for its favorite event of the year — St. Patrick's day. Hop over to the Irish American Heritage Center for a showing of Tea With St. Patrick, or visit the South Side Irish Parade.

Not ready to celebrate quite yet? Instead, try out the many options available through Andersonville Restaurant Week or — if you're feeling adventurous — take part in the Chicago Polar Plunge at North Avenue Beach.

Andersonville Restaurant Week

Chicago's Andersonville Neighborhood will host a restaurant week through March 2, offering diverse cuisine at various restaurants. Participating businesses include Big Jones, Minyoli, Anteprema and more.

Chicago Polar Plunge

North Avenue Beach, located at 1601 N. Jean-Baptiste Pointe DuSable Lake Shore Drive, will host the 25th annual Chicago Polar Plunge March 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Admission is free and attendance benefits programs enjoyed by the Special Olympics Chicago.

Go Run Chicago

Go Run is a community partnership between the Chicago Park District and the Chicago Area Runners Association which fosters engagement through an active lifestyle and volunteerism. They'll host a run at Warren Park — located 6601 N. Western Ave. Admission is free, and those looking to attend can register on the Go Run website.

Chopin in the City

The 9th annual Chopin in the City will put on concerts inspired by composer Frederic Chopin at various venues across the city, including Green Mill cocktail lounge at 4802 N. Broadway Ave. and The Polish Museum of America at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave. Ticket prices are listed under \$50.

"Clue" Production

Based on the 1985 cult-classic by the same name, this stage play is currently running at the CIBC Theatre, located at 18 W. Monroe St. Showtimes occur in the early afternoon and late evenings, and ticket prices range from \$31 to \$146.

Chicago Irish Film Festival

The Chicago Irish Film Festival returns for its 26th annual run in Lincoln Park and will show over 40 short films, about a dozen feature films and will host a talk with former President of Ireland Mary Robinson. An online program will stream specially curated films not shown at the festival March 3-9.

Tea with St. Patrick

Actor Terry Lynch brings the patron saint of Ireland to life in this show, running from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 8 at the Irish American Heritage Center, located at 4626 N. Knox Ave. Lynch as St. Patrick will tell the stories of other saints like St. Bridget, St. Columba and others. Tickets are \$15 for children under 12 and \$30 general.

South Side Irish Parade

The largest St. Patrick's day community-based event outside of Dublin, Ireland — Chicago's Southside Irish Parade will kick off at 103rd and Western Avenue in the West Morgan neighborhood March 16 at 12 p.m. The Big Shoulders Fund will be Grand Marshaling.

Lilli Malone is the News Editor and Paige Dillinger is a Deputy News Editor for The Loyola Phoenix. They can be contacted at lmalone@luc.edu and pdillinger@luc.edu.



COURTESY OF ABRAHAM HERRERA

The Plant Post can be used to distribute plants, seeds or cuttings to neighbors.

This library has plants, not books

By HUNTER MINNÉ,
hminne@luc.edu

While miniature libraries are a common sight throughout Rogers Park and beyond, the structure protruding from the frozen ground in front of one West Ridge home is not quite the same.

Sitting on a post jutting out of the lawn, this box is designed to share plants, not books.

Software engineer Abraham Herrera's pandemic project was creating what he's dubbed the Plant Post — a little library but with the alternate goal of sharing plants, including leftover seeds, cuttings, propagations, ornamental and vegetable plants. Now, he's trying to propagate his idea and the instructions for building it.

Herrera made the initial frame for what would eventually be the first model of the Plant Post in 2021. After moving to the area two years ago, he found he finally had an outdoor space where it would fit, and it was time to dust off the old project, finish construction and install it in front of the house.

He and Emily Spindler, Herrera's partner of six years, said one of their favorite things to do together is go on walks down random streets, looking for gardens to admire. They have their own vegetable

and herb gardens at home alongside fruit trees, which Herrera said they only discovered after purchasing the house.

"I don't remember exactly how I first got the idea, but I captured it on graph paper, because I guess I'm old school like that," Herrera said.

Herrera said the Plant Post's motto "Take a plant, leave a plant," has roots in Chicago's motto "Urbs in Horto," meaning "City in a Garden," which appears on the City Seal.

The Plant Post had its "soft launch" last year at the Northtown Garden Society's annual May plant sale in Warren Park, and Herrera said it was both satisfying and inspiring to witness people's faces light up when they recognize what the Plant Post is.

Chairman of the Northtown Garden Society Eva Mannabeg said they will continue their relationship with Herrera and hope he will once again display the Plant Post at the next May plant sale. Mannabeg said the garden society goes beyond just gardening and addresses all things nature, and she believes the project is a positive means of communicating with the community.

Herrera said the goal of last year was to introduce the idea and test out the box among his neighbors. With



HUNTER MINNÉ / THE PHOENIX

Spindler and Herrera installed the post in front of their West Ridge home.



COURTESY OF ABRAHAM HERRERA

Herrera finished construction of the first box after moving two years ago.

some positive feedback from the plant sale under his belt, Herrera said he hopes this year the project will take off. To help get it further off the ground, Herrera created a 14-page step-by-step build guide so those interested can construct their own Plant Post.

"My whole intention behind this community project is just get people to build them themselves," Herrera said. "Feel like, if you've ever built a birdhouse, you can probably do this. It's a little bit harder than a bird house but it's the same skill set."

Spindler said the box has survived its first winter without sustaining any real damage, enduring snow, rain, ice and hail. Although the original Plant Post is currently empty for the winter, Herrera said the plants may return in April.

Several passersby have asked the pair when the box will open up again, and before the temperatures dropped, some would comment on how much they liked the idea, according to Spindler. One neighbor wrote the pair a note thanking them and taped it to their front door along with a packet of tomato seeds.

"Thank you for the black strawberry tomato plant," the note read. "Wanted to share some of these seeds with you, they are Siberian tomato seeds. I've had the best luck growing these on my low light back porch. Enjoy!"

Ash Luciani volunteers with the Rogers Park Seed Library and is one of three worker-owners of Prairies Over Lawns. They first encountered the Plant Post at another garden society event last year. In an email to The

Phoenix, Luciani said they always have seedlings and were interested in creating a place where they could funnel plants into their community.

While Luciani hasn't begun building their own Plant Post yet, they're communicating with Herrera, acquiring the necessary supplies and expecting to finish construction in either late spring or early summer. Once finished, it will be integrated into their parkway alongside native grasses, trees and a classic little library.

"Many folks in this neighborhood already donate their apples from trees, honey from their bees, and seeds from their plants," Luciani wrote. "By installing a Plant Post in the parkway, I am hoping to join this tradition of neighbors coming together to provide for each other."

With the new year, Herrera said he has big ambitions for the Plant Post. He's considering hosting workshops on how to build it, registering as a nonprofit, creating a portable demo version, creating a website to highlight approximate locations, developing a workbook that could be used in schools and possibly installing one outside of the Warren Park fieldhouse.

Beyond some individual requests for instructions or an assembled box, most of these plans are still preliminary. But with the onset of garden season, Herrera said he's excited to see how the project grows.

Hunter Minné is a Deputy News Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



CHIROSE SALON AND SPA

Simplicity Is Beauty

Nourish-Hydrate-Transform

20% OFF FIRST VISIT

SKIN CARE

HAIR CARE

Facial Rejuvenation

Brow Sculpting Lamination

Lash Lift Magic

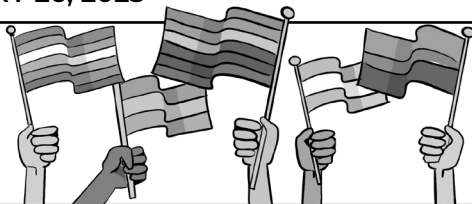
Beauty Treatments

chirosesalon.com

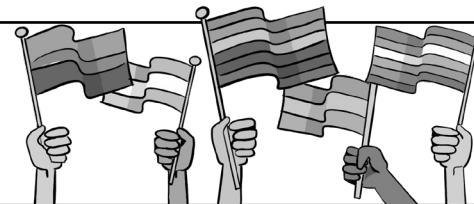
1406 W Devon Ave

773.654.3449





OPINION



Loyola: Include trans students in DEI efforts

By SOPHIE BUCHMAN, sbuchman@luc.edu

Content warning: Transphobia
For the first time in my three years as a Rambler, I feel I do not fully belong in the Loyola community.

Honestly, I feel like I don't belong anywhere.

This feeling isn't due to any one person, nor is it caused by Loyola or Loyola's atmosphere. It's come about from the current transphobia plaguing national rhetoric and politics.

To say my life after Inauguration Day has been chaotic would be the understatement of the millennium. Since Jan. 20, the Trump administration has issued five executive orders obliterating transgender individuals' right to public life.

From sports to military service, identification and healthcare, these orders have dramatically affected the lives of every single transgender American.

In addition to the Trump administration's actions, South Carolina Rep. Nancy Mace notoriously shouted the transphobic slur "tranny" in the House of Representatives Feb. 5. To see a person in a respected position shout a term that's been used to assault members of the transgender community — in the sacred halls of Congress — has decimated hope for transgender inclusivity in this country.

The election of the first openly

transgender member of congress, Representative Sarah McBride, should've been a celebration for the transgender community. However, McBride's win has been overshadowed by Mace's bathroom meltdowns and the blatant misgendering of McBride on the House floor by Illinois Rep. Mary Miller.

As someone involved in civic and political circles, Mace's tirade and Trump's executive orders are symbols of the alienation transgender Americans are feeling. After years of progress for LGBTQ+ people, the progress transgender people enjoyed has flipped. We're being told we don't belong in education, athletics or politics. We're being told we'll never belong anywhere.

Loyola's community is an accepting place, and the continuation of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts demonstrates the university won't bow down to political pressure. To reaffirm its commitment, the university sent a letter to all students Jan. 20, detailing continued institutional support for undocumented students.

Despite these supportive signals, why has university administration left transgender students out of these efforts?

Loyola has policies in place to protect transgender students. How do transgender students know these policies won't get axed? What commitment does the transgender community have that policies encouraging belonging at

Loyola will still be there tomorrow?

The Department of Education has already begun their transgender rights rollback. The National Collegiate Athletic Association has officially banned transgender women from participating in women's sports. Although the Department of Education is taxpayer-funded, the NCAA is a private entity — and it quickly folded to political pressure.

Even more concerning, Lurie Children's hospital in Streeterville, another private institution, complied with a Jan. 28 executive order restricting gender-affirming care for people under the age of 19, according to the Chicago Sun-Times. Despite the Trump order being blocked by a judge, Lurie decided it won't resume providing care, which sparked a massive protest Feb. 15.

DEI includes transgender individuals, so as private institutions such as Lurie and the NCAA axe their inclusive policies, transgender students need to know they'll always have a place in the Loyola community.

To ensure the survival of the transgender community on this campus, it's essential institutional DEI efforts intentionally listen to and uplift transgender students and staff. Right now, there needs to be less focus on business-as-usual and more on disseminating resources to protect the transgender population.

There are many frightening unknowns about what the next four years will look like for the transgender community. No one knows exactly what's on the horizon, and no one knows the extent to which Trump's policies will change normal life for transgender individuals.

Institutional DEI is important because it allows people with marginalized identities to have a standard they can rely on. The silence of university administration on how transgender people fit into current DEI efforts, transgender students, staff and faculty are left to wonder if we'll be included in any sense of institutional normality.

Without intentional inclusion in DEI efforts, transgender people are left wondering if our basic needs will be protected. Will we still be allowed to utilize the dorms and facilities we feel safest in? Will we still be allowed to participate in single-gender clubs and sports?

Will we still belong?

I certainly don't believe any university administrator wants a student, let alone a group of students, to feel they do not belong. Choosing silence, however, is choosing the side of the oppressor — and actively choosing not to explicitly express support for transgender Ramblers sends a silent message we do not belong.

Loyola, your silence is deafening.

Horoscope

PISCES: Feb. 19 to March 20

Minutes are fickle — ebbing and flowing with the persistent ticking of the clock. Strike now before the moment fades.

ARIES: March 21 to April 19

Mercury will soon enter under Aries. Revision is just as important as writing. Taste your words over again — you may find they have a more bitter taste than you previously thought.

TAURUS: April 20 to May 20

Just as river stones soften their edges against the river's flow, so, too, will you adapt. Change precedes welcome adjustment.

GEMINI: May 21 to June 20

In the discord and roar of the passing days, take a few hours to sit quietly, breathe and focus on yourself.

CANCER: June 21 to July 22

You're not obligated to stay when conditions grow intolerable. Slip through the crack in the door and don't look back

LEO: July 23 to Aug. 22

There's a violent beauty in the push for survival — keep fighting. It's not yet time to fall weak against the cold soil.

VIRGO: Aug. 23 to Sept. 22

The biting waves below would scream in delight if you were to fall — keep your grip firm on the rocky edges of the cliff.

LIBRA: Sept. 23 to Oct. 22

This is all you have, so make the most of it. Idyllic dreaming won't lead to any meaningful change on its own.

SCORPIO: Oct. 23 to Nov. 21

You're more talented than you tend to give yourself credit for. Perhaps in the monotonous beat of life, you've forgotten your exceptionality.

SAGITTARIUS: Nov. 22 to Dec. 21

Your work is only piling — its foundation is trembling under the weight of itself. Soon it'll bury you alive. Better to tackle your assignments now.

CAPRICORN: Dec. 22 to Jan 19

Fissures are needed for light to enter. You're not cracking, you're simply loosening the tension in your joints.

AQUARIUS: Jan. 20 to Feb. 18

In the tiresome pursuit of excellence, avoid the trap of tunnel vision — don't muffle the mundane joys of the world.

The Phoenix Horoscope is written by Catherine Meyer, cmeyer6@luc.edu.

Damen deserves a Michelin Star

By SEAMUS CHILES TROUTMAN, schilestroutman@luc.edu

Winter has raged on for months, and I hardly remember what the sun looks like. My daily commute to campus is now guided east by a new star — Damen Dining Hall.

Unlike Icarus and the sun, it's impossible to fly too close to this celestial body. It brings warmth and nourishment to thousands and deserves the highly-esteemed Michelin Star as a medal of honor for everything it has given the Loyola community.

Describing every amazing attribute of Damen would be like counting each grain of sand in the Sahara Desert — simply impossible.

Open every day from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Damen is a never-ending gift for all — even on the Sabbath.

Yes, Damen is a dining hall serving food and beverages, but it's also so much more than that. Damen is a community center, a conduit of culture, a study spot and a refuge from all external troubles.

Some may say Damen Dining Hall shouldn't receive a Michelin Star because the food isn't up to par.

What do these naysayers expect from cooks who work tirelessly to make food for dozens of students in quick succession? Damen is like a family home. It may not be the biggest house on the block, but it's where memories are everlasting, and it's always a place to fall back on in hard times.

Let's examine the Michelin Star criteria. The first two points of emphasis are the quality of the ingredients and the harmony of flavors, according to the Michelin Guide. In truth, I don't pay attention to the ingredients when I ask for something at Damen. They could pass ostrich toes as chicken tenders and, if it tasted good enough, I'd order it a second time.

As for the second classification, eat a cheeseburger at Damen and tell me you didn't experience a harmony of flavors. Melted cheese, ketchup and beef sizzling on the plate, snaring and shrouding my eyes with the sight of maroon and

gold goodness.

But it's unhealthy! It's processed mush! Food poisoning!

But what dish, other than the cheeseburger, contains the entire food pyramid?

The cheese is dairy, the beef is protein, the buns are grain, the lettuce is a vegetable and add an apple on the side for appearances — you don't even have to eat it — and you've got a well-balanced meal.

The next two categories of the Michelin Star's criteria are the mastery of techniques and the personality of the chef as expressed through their cuisine.

Damen cooks prepare burgers in probably under five seconds. While they sometimes don't cook the cheese and grab a pre-cooked, lukewarm patty from the stack, no one can argue they haven't mastered the technique of delivering food swiftly — and they certainly pack personality in every slice of pizza or bowl of rice.

The last category for a Michelin star is consistency both across the entire menu and over time. This may be where Loyola Dining Halls — Damen included — struggle most.

About half the reason I chose to apply to Loyola over Harvard was because of de Nobili Dining Hall's ice cream machine, and yet it seems the last time I ate ice cream at Loyola, goat hides were still in fashion and woolly mammoth was on the dinner menu.

But in Damen, their Oktoberfest food and festivities are sublime, bringing me back to my days in old Bavaria. Just thinking about the pretzels makes my mouth, and eyes, water. My only wish in life is to taste them once more, but these delicacies are few and fleeting.

Some window watchers whine about the price of admission. They view Damen as a first and second-year experience and nothing more. In the shadows, they snicker about older students who frequent the fine establishment.

Being an upperclassman at Damen isn't shameful — it's economic. As the saying goes, time is money. Spending hours grocery shopping,

meal-planning and cooking detracts from my scholarly and entrepreneurial pursuits.

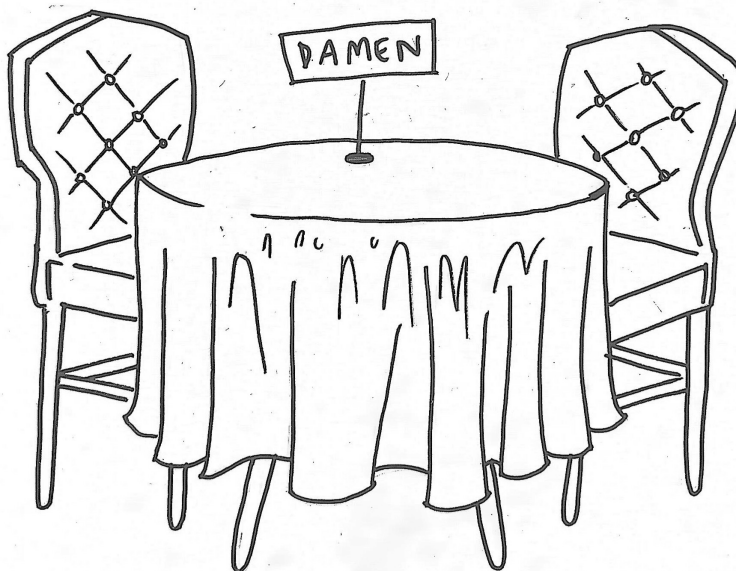
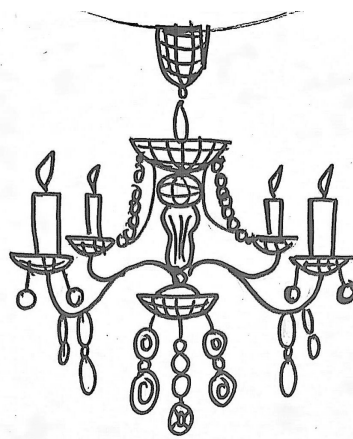
If you see an older student in Damen, don't judge or think they're lazy. They probably know Latin and have successfully diversified their investment portfolio.

Even Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt, BVM graces the hall with

her presence. She was born before sliced bread and the NFL. She's learned a thing or two about where to get a good meal.

Damen Dining Hall is the soul of Loyola. It offers a plethora of food options — almost all of them worthwhile.

Damen is a beacon, a star to many students, and it should receive the accolades it so rightfully deserves.



Which is better: TikTok or Instagram Reels?

TIKTOK:

By **MOLLY HANLEY**,
mhanley3@luc.edu

Instagram Reels are so bad, they're even better than TikTok.

When the scare of a TikTok ban loomed, many turned to Instagram Reels, according to the New York Times. However, I'd been an avid consumer of Instagram Reels even before Jan. 19.

When you open the Explore page on Instagram, you're given an abundance of content options. Whether you want to watch fashion videos, ASMR videos or even videos reposted from TikTok, it's all available at the tap of a finger.

On TikTok, it's either the For You page or the people you follow. With Instagram Reels, there's an endless supply of videos, and users can navigate the direction they want to go — the screen is filled with various videos to choose from.

The content on Instagram Reels may seem subpar in comparison to TikTok, but really this is one reason it's so great. With Reels, things can show up on your feed with no rhyme or reason, allowing users to discover videos they may have never looked into before.

Some of the funniest videos on my Explore page never would've popped up in my TikTok algorithm.

Instagram Reels has a much larger demographic, catering to teenagers as well as older generations according to Fourthwall. Statistics show there are 2 billion monthly active users, in contrast, there are only just over two million monthly active users on TikTok, according to Demand Sage.

Most people who have TikTok also

have Instagram — but the reverse isn't always true.

TikTok's also recently has been the center of political controversy, as President Donald Trump signed an executive order extending the app's access in the U.S., saying "We have to save it," the Associated Press reported.

Trump used TikTok's popularity as a way to persuade and win over young voters in this election who use TikTok, according to the Associated Press. The app's hegemony being weaponized as a manipulation tactic points to a potential broader issue of TikTok influencing young minds in possibly harmful ways.

The fact that Instagram Reels are available to anyone with an Instagram account makes short-form video content far more accessible. Rather than needing to download a completely different app — eating up over 300MB of storage, according to Dexerto — users can watch videos baked into social media they already have.

Overall, the accessibility and demographic range of Instagram Reels allows more people to connect and share aspects of their life — isn't that what these apps are all about?

Molly Hanley is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.



REELS:

By **RANIA WOODWARD**,
rwoodward@luc.edu

There's a reason why TikTok has been around longer than Instagram Reels. Simply put, it's because TikTok is better.

TikTok and Musical.ly merged in 2018 and thus started with approximately 100 million users. Musical.ly was a beloved platform for many and was mostly used to make lip-syncing videos.

Many users transferred their accounts to TikTok after the merger, but the same premise from both apps remained the same. As a short-form video app, TikTok recognized teenagers' short attention spans and capitalized on them, giving users a way to pass the time when bored.

TikTok soared during the COVID-19 pandemic, when almost all there was to do was scroll through the app.

Instagram Reels has the same scrolling, short-form video format, but TikTok was the original — Reels is just a copy.

A worse copy.

TikTok's evolution through different eras represents how it's progressed. Just as its users have grown up and are no longer making dance videos, the app has grown up too. TikTok has welcomed a plethora of new users over the years, being the most downloaded app of 2021, according to Social Shepard.

Some prefer Instagram Reels to avoid the supposed "brain rot" TikTok causes,

according to Psyche, but the two apps have the same general concept. Despite their similarities, TikTok's algorithm is more inclusive as it pushes for new creators' videos to appear on anyone's screen, whilst Reels tends to only show accounts with large followings already.

TikTok users can also choose to either just see posts from accounts they follow or scroll their For You page, which processes what they've liked and curates a personalized feed of videos.

TikTok users can also hide their likes. On Reels everyone's forced to be mindful of what they like because anyone can see if the accounts they're mutuals liked any video they come across. Reels users can't relax like TikTok users can.

Also, TikTok fame has given many influencers and artists incredible opportunities. Consider Charli D'Amelio, who's now on Broadway because TikTok gave her a chance to bring her dance talent to a global audience. Or artists Lil Nas X with his 2019 pop song "Old Town Road" which went viral on the app and allowed him to be a star and Doja Cat's iconic "Say So" song paired with a dance, handing her many spots on the Billboard Top 100.

In the end, TikTok is more user-friendly. Many love Instagram as a way to post about life and share with friends, so why did it need to add Reels?

When you're getting ready with your friends, you're going to hear, "Let's make a TikTok" — never "let's make an Instagram Reel."

Rania Woodward is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.

Trump's nationalist veil

By **JACKSON STEFFENS**,
jsteffens@luc.edu

Trailed by 41 V8 Nascars and two Secret Service vehicles, Donald Trump sped around a sold-out Daytona International Speedway in his black presidential Cadillac Feb. 16. While 100,000 Americans filled the stands, Elon Musk was back in Washington dismantling the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Trump has yet to step away from the spotlight since his inauguration. He continues to perform stunts that overshadow changes he's making, creating dire implications for both Americans and people all over the world.

When Trump stepped out of the Capitol Rotunda Jan. 20, he sat down in the Oval Office and began signing executive orders, The Associated Press reported. Some of these orders made radical and hurtful changes to the government, but others were performative diversions.

Trump creates distractions like the one at Daytona for the same reason he signed so many executive orders so close together — his aim is to project arbitrary nationalist victories to overshadow the lack of improvements the administration has made for the average person.

He uses stunts to create the illusion of victory for his base of support, even though his voters will likely still be hurt, according to The New York Times, by his less publicized actions, including attacks on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and the Department of Education.

Trump's core supporters, preoccupied with the triumphant "America First" rhetoric of the president's renaming the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America, are less likely to notice the Department

of Education supplies disproportionately more funding to red states than it does blue states, according to Forbes.

Not only do stunts distract, but they overload the media with information, making it harder to know what's going on in the news. Trump's opponents are also forced to spend time and energy going after petty name changes — and pay less attention to the problems he's created.

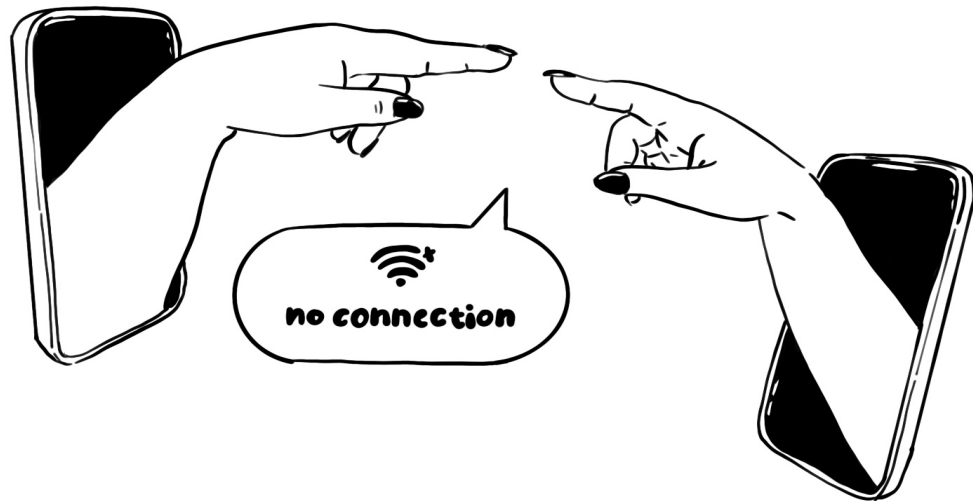
In response to Trump's executive orders, Alaska's senate unanimously opposed his decision to rename Mt. Denali to Mt. McKinley, according to NPR. The state's government coming together for this reason is a complete waste of time to fix a nonexistent problem.

The strategy of distraction has been embraced by Trump's associates as well. Elon Musk dominated news coverage and sparked outrage when he made a hand gesture resembling the Nazi salute after Trump's election, according to Al Jazeera.

Musk bragged about defunding the federal government while brandishing a chainsaw at The Conservative Party Annual Conference Feb. 21, according to BBC. At the same event Steve Bannon was accused of giving another Nazi salute, The AP reported.

While these gestures are extremely dangerous, hateful and should absolutely be condemned, lawmakers and news media must not lose sight of the devastating changes happening within our government.

We can't allow ourselves to be blinded by empty gestures and posturing. We must fight against the cancer of fascism that's infected our government. We see the signs of disease — now we must cut out the tumor.



Power down advice to unplug

By **VICTORIA PALMERI**,
vpalmeri@luc.edu

March 7 is the Global Day of Unplugging, when the chronically online and technologically inclined are encouraged to power down their devices and reconnect with the real world for 24 hours.

A symptom of the digital age from which almost no one is immune is hearing the now tired mental health tip from professors, employers, doctors and even friends — disconnect from technology when we notice it interfering with our mental health.

While limiting screen time and technology use has been proven to better one's mental health, it's time the very people who require us to keep devices glued to our hands stop preaching such advice.

Chronic technology use is a result of the realities of the digital age. Disconnection feels near impossible when employers expect timely responses at all hours of the day and worrisome family members require constant access to your location.

Personally, I'd love nothing more than to shut my phone off, shove it in a drawer and forget about it until absolutely necessary. I long for the days before my time, when landlines and hand-written letters were the most

common modes of communication.

Alas, I'm a product of my generation — people who graduated high school via Zoom and entered a workforce of hybrid and fully remote office structures.

How are we meant to unplug when digital connection has been woven into every aspect of our lives? When work, school and communication are all channeled through a screen?

Sure, we can power down our devices and commit to a life lived in reality, regardless of technological barriers — but in a scarce job market where your value as an employee equates to your dependability, a missed email or Microsoft Teams notification can have harsh consequences.

Not to mention how, in many professions, your presence on social platforms like LinkedIn — a site that employs many of the evils of social media under the guise of corporate lingo — can very well determine your employability.

I once took a class — aptly titled "Digital Communication & Society" — in which we were challenged to unplug from all technology for a week. No smart phones, no television, essentially no use of technology invented after 1950.

How exactly is a student meant to purge themselves of digital technology while enrolled in an institution that

asks them to do the very opposite?

The reality of being a student, an employee, a friend — essentially any active member of society in the modern world — comes with a near-unavoidable commitment to keeping a phone or laptop close at all times.

Simply put, there can't be true, consequence-free disconnection from technology without a larger cultural shift regarding our dependence on it for communication. With artificial intelligence on the rise, an increase in remote work and a nation-wide meltdown over an hours-long social media app shutdown, this doesn't seem likely to come anytime soon.

Digital communication has certainly advanced certain aspects of our day-to-day lives, and it's provided tools which make communication — in healthcare and education, for example — more accessible to those who didn't previously have advanced technology. But at what point do we draw the line in terms of the average individual's dependence?

Until we modify our means of communication and lessen our reliance on technology, receiving advice to unplug and disconnect is a pointlessly cruel suggestion to counteract the digital dependence it attempts to solve.

HEIRLOOM BOOKS



6239 N. Clark St., Chicago
heirloomchicago.com
239 595 7426

TWO FLOORS of CATEGORIZED USED BOOKS
OPEN NOON to SEVEN • CLOSED MONDAYS

Satire: Save the gym, start a podcast

By **SCOTTY MONTEITH,**
bmonteith@luc.edu

Personally, I would love to see more men in podcasting.

I had this epiphany while sitting in the Halas Recreation Center locker room, overhearing two bros discuss the pick-up lines they planned to use later that night. I realized — after listening to them for what felt like two years — my pick-up game is weak, and I'm in desperate need of advice.

Their insight on how to get a woman's attention was flawless. The skills they could teach me could easily be put to good use at McGee's Tavern & Grille or The Oasis Tavern. I honestly don't know how there wasn't a line of women outside the locker room waiting to get their numbers.

Where there always seems to be a line, however, is in the basement of Halas on the pec fly machine.

While I stood by a bench, waiting for

seven dudes to finish flexing in front of the weight rack, I thought about what I was missing in life and I came to a realization. These men. These studly men. These quintessentially studly manly men needed to get out of my way and into the studio.

I figure if all the gym bros left to start podcasting careers, then I would have access to whatever machine I want.

The U.S. population is 49% male, but only 55% of podcasters are men. We're getting dangerously close to having an even 50-50 split in podcasting — and I can't stand for it.

There need to be more male voices in podcasting. Specifically there need to be more male Loyolans as podcast hosts.

Ask anyone on campus and they'll tell you Loyola men have some really good takes. As someone who frequently changes in the Halas men's locker room, I feel gym bros' voices in particular need to be heard.

I know spring break is just around the corner — and I'm sure people are

trying to get a pump in before break starts — but I'd really appreciate it if people jumped on the podcast train and left the gym entirely instead of lifting right next to me.

Their energy should be shared with the world, not stuck underground.

I'd encourage gym bros to find a table, a quiet room and a mic, and to just let their opinions fly on a podcast. The first step in starting a new hobby is always the hardest. Just get out of the gym and press record — what could go wrong?

Instead of using the piece of equipment I'm trying to use, try leaving the gym and talking about male loneliness.

Instead of flexing muscles in the mirror, how about flexing the biggest muscle — the brain — on Spotify by imparting wisdom on politics or women in cinema.

I know gym bros love to clog the pathway between machines, chatting loudly enough for me to hear their

whole conversation about looksmaxxing and how hard their business classes are. But I'd like to pitch the idea of hanging out at home and recording the conversations so I can enjoy them after my workout.

Loyola's student body is only 31% male and, as minorities, having a seat at the podcasting table is crucial for our nation and for our university to better understand students' needs.

One need I've experienced while attending Loyola is the need for fewer men — and people in general — in the weight room.

Podcasting is an extremely beneficial form of media, and aside from Andrew Tate, Joe Rogan, Ben Shapiro, Jack Paul, Logan Paul, Lex Fridman, Sean Hannity and Alex Jones, there isn't really enough male representation in podcasting.

So please, if you read this newspaper, don't go to the gym. Go online and buy podcasting equipment — because the people want to hear from you.



MAO REYNOLDS / THE PHOENIX

Magazine creativity needs to come back into fashion

By **CADENCE FUNG,**
cfung1@luc.edu

Blake Lively, Lady Gaga and Billie Eilish — not only high-profile names but the faces of Vogue's September, October and November covers. Founded in 1892, the celebrated magazine often features high profile individuals, has been famously heralded as the "fashion bible" and boasts publications in 28 countries.

American fashion publications like Harper's Bazaar, Elle and Vogue have historically served as outlets for all types of creatives, giving photographers, editors, illustrators, makeup artists, stylists and writers a chance for their work to be viewed by a national audience.

Vogue's earliest covers were all hand-illustrated, giving exposure to many creatives, such as Eduardo García Benito and René Gruau, whose careers took off from the distribution of these magazines.

But a gradual shift has taken place in American fashion magazines during the 21st century, one that started in the '80s issues and has been growing ever since. Fashion magazines have turned their focus from original, eclectic content to something with more face value — celebrities.

With so many of these magazines falling on their knees to worship celebrities and their style, I often feel like I'm tapping through Kendall Jenner's Instagram story when flipping through Elle. Fashion magazines have drifted from engaging content — fashion, lifestyle, culture, art — and traded it in for pages oversaturated with celebrity life and

omnipresent advertising.

This mind-numbing combination has — miraculously — made reading a fashion magazine boring. In its September 2019 issue, Vogue totaled 356 ad in a 596-page magazine, according to Women's Wear Daily.

The same month, Elle printed 201 pages of ads in a 364-page issue, and Harper's Bazaar clocked in 222 ad pages within a 398 page magazine, according to Women's Wear Daily. All three covers featured celebrities.

There's nothing inherently wrong with highlighting

constant stream of celebrity content isn't helping.

Fashion magazines should return to their roots and feature more articles on the art of fashion construction, culture and its global impact, rather than what's inside Dua Lipa's Birkin bag.

Instead of dissecting Hollywood life, I'd like to see the spotlight thrown on new, unknown designers. I'd like to read articles about fast fashion's effect on climate change or social class signaling through fashion.

Bring back illustrators for covers. Highlight creativity in the fashion world. Unique content is how many publications built their audience — it's now what they should return to to keep print culture alive.

Major American fashion magazines should take a page from smaller indie works such as Voir Fashion or BRICKS Magazine. These publications balance celebrity pieces with writing that dives into the cultural and political aspects of fashion or highlights new designers. This balance makes for a far richer read than a steady stream of celebrity updates.

On a brighter note, Vogue Italia re-introduced illustrations to their covers to give exposure to creatives and reduce the environmental impact of expensive photoshoots. These covers aren't only fresh and interesting to look at — they also reduce all the international travel emissions and plastic waste created from a single photoshoot.

Fashion magazines should serve to highlight fashion as a unique art form and a marker of human creativity — not a pedestal for our nation's wealthiest and most affluent.



You deserve a little treat

By **JULIA SOEDER,**
jsoeder@luc.edu

College life isn't for the weak. There's constantly someone asking something of you — whether it's school, family, friends or roommates, there's rarely a moment when you're your only priority.

Except when it's little treat time.

My love for a little treat has been with me for as long as I can remember. It's a habit I credit my mom with cultivating. She was always there to say yes to my brothers and I begging to get candy as a reward for accompanying her to the grocery store. If I had a rough day, some cookies or ice cream would be waiting in the kitchen to remind me maybe life wasn't so bad.

The term "little treat" grew out of the popular show "Parks and Recreation" quote, "Treat Yo' Self" — two characters' catchphrase on their annual day of treats, according to The New York Times. With COVID-19 came a new mindset of people turning to these little treats to commemorate small wins or ease the sting of pain, according to Daily Mail.

A little treat is a mindset, not a monetary transaction. They include setting aside time to listen to your favorite album or watch a new show, and they're just as important as writing an essay or completing a project. No matter who you are, you deserve to enjoy at least one thing in the day.

It's something I've made a habit of, and while it may lack my mom's

thoughtfulness, it still always manages to lift my spirits. Looking forward to these small things has become a treasured — and even necessary — aspect of my days.

I'm not too proud to admit there were times when my reward yourself mindset went too far. When the Dunkin' employees under the Loyola L-stop didn't need me to say my name before handing me an iced latte and strawberry-frosted donut, I knew I had a problem. It took about two days for me to return, head held slightly lower, to retrieve my typical order.

But if all it takes for me to go to class is an iced coffee, then so be it. While the treat yourself mindset can sometimes be taken too far, its core message should never be forgotten.

Life is too short to not add joy into a daily routine.

There's no better part of my day than when one of my roommates turns to me, eyebrows raised quizzically, to ask if I'd like to go on a run for a little sweet treat.

The question is always met with a wide smile and an enthusiastic yes. Little treats are always enjoyable, but they're even better when shared with friends.

The next time it feels like the world's falling apart and nothing can go right, take a deep breath and go get yourself a little treat. It may not fix everything, but it certainly won't hurt to have some ice cream with friends and a quick laugh.

After all, life isn't that serious — there's always time for a little sweet treat.

Long live the king? Trump grabs for power

By **ELIZABETH MAXWELL,**
emaxwell@luc.edu

In his first few weeks in office Donald Trump has already taken numerous steps to rework the U.S. government, reverting many laws keeping citizens protected and himself from becoming a dictator.

His first series of executive orders aimed at ending DEI programs in all corners of the government, withdrawing from the Paris Agreement and ordering mass deportations of immigrants.

America's system of checks and balances is supposed to ensure the president can't take advantage of his position — but Trump has already been able to take over the Oval Office after criminal charges. His success in gaining power has prompted citizens to wonder if Trump will really be able to follow through on his self-serving plans. Since the executive branch requires

congressional approval to enact most changes, it seems unlikely Trump could carry out his most extreme promises, such as the removal of DEI organizations from government spaces. But according to Kim Darrah, a contributor for World Finance, the power of the president has fluctuated substantially between presidents, allowing them to make orders without the support of Congress.

"Roosevelt, for example, issued a massive 3,522 executive orders over the course of his presidency," Darrah wrote. "Nixon, in comparison, issued 346, Bush 291, and Obama 276."

But the president's ability to issue orders without Congress depends on the content and scope of the executive order itself, meaning presidents can't simply change the law unilaterally. For example, Congress delegated some heightened executive power through the Trading with the Enemy Act

of 1917, giving the president the ability to single-handedly deal with the importation of goods during natural emergencies — without needing to ask Congress.

Trump's variation from past presidents, however, comes from the nature of his orders. He intends only to better the U.S. for himself. By deporting paperless immigrants he isn't protecting the American people, he's tearing apart innocent families as he makes drastic moves to expand his own following.

The reason Trump may seem to hold more power than past presidents is the make-up of his government. Both the House of Representatives and the Senate have had slim Republican majorities since the Nov. 2025 election, and the Supreme Court is now made up of 6 justices appointed by Republican presidents.

In the years since WWII, Trump is one of only three presidents to have their party control both houses of Congress

and have a friendly supermajority in the Supreme Court, according to Ed Gargan for The Guardian. With this configuration, Trump knows he'll be able to execute his boldest plan without pushback.

Trump's control of every aspect of the government will undoubtedly be the reason he's able to execute his agenda. Though it isn't guaranteed legislators and judges agree with Trump's every move, signs of their support have been shown, such as through Trump's nomination of Pete Hegseth.

Hegseth was proposed by Trump for secretary of defense — a controversial choice due to his lack of experience, alleged alcohol abuse and sexual assault, according to NPR. But, when this nomination was made, it received no hesitation from Republican officials and Hegseth was confirmed.

The reason Trump is able to tear apart the government isn't because he's

a strong and brilliant mastermind. It's because he's been able to stack his government full of those who are either too fearful to disobey him or too egotistical to remove themselves from the chance to gain great power — even if it's coated in dishonor.

Trump's most recent display of power is an image he posted on X. In it he is depicted in front of the New York cityscape, wearing a crown with his name in large letters and the words "LONG LIVE THE KING." Surrounded by so many on his side, Trump is well-aware he can get away with such a blatant show of narcissism.

If continued, this cooperation from all branches will be exactly how Trump asserts his every whim. Currently he's on the road to breaking the tradition of the U.S. government, dismantling its standards of inclusion and creating a dictatorship where only he stands to gain.

ARTS



COURTESY OF JOE MAZZA

The play honors Black victims of police brutality and lynchings. Director Deron Williams said highlighting history helps spark uncomfortable, but important, conversations about racism and solidarity.

History and hope in 'Notes From the Field'

NOTES, CONTINUED

The performance began with a video of the murder of Freddie Gray, jars of soil from lynching sites courtesy of the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Ala. and a video about Shakara — a student pulled from her desk by her neck and thrown on the floor by a police officer because she used her phone during class, according to the Los Angeles Times.

The entire production was designed to force a confrontation with reality, Williams said. Choreographer and movement director Tanji Harper said "Notes From the Field" isn't a passive experience — it's meant to challenge, disturb and impact the audience.

Williams and Harper said they added musicality to the show to further make the audience's experience visceral. Harper said some attendees, especially the younger generation, don't have the attention span to sit for two hours and process brutally retold stories. She said through music and dance, they can experience the story on a more visceral level.

"People get uncomfortable in their seats when the mirror is held up to some of the things that they've either ignored or are clearly aware of and are cognitively dissonant about," Harper said. "Your heart is also tugged because of the emotional pieces of the music that was chosen and the movement that was given."

With colorblind casting, some white and Asian actors portray Black characters, which Harper said invited crowd engagement. Since the scenes were monologues, the actors spoke to the attendees directly.

Harper pointed to Alex de Foy, a fourth-year economics major and member of the Gold cast, who played the roles of a psychiatrist and Bryan Stevenson — a lawyer and social justice advocate. Foy's portrayal of two Black characters, explaining the history of lynching to the audience, left onlookers speechless, according to Harper.

"It changes the way that you receive the information, and especially if you hear it in the skin of somebody else," Harper said. "Watching Alex portray a young Black male and speak in the vernacular that he used made everyone listen in a different way — now they

could see their son."

Erinn Grendahl, a fourth-year theater major, was a member of the Maroon cast playing both a Black Pastor and a Congressman. Grendahl said it was an eye-opening experience to see the audience's shaken reactions, with her being a white female depicting Black male characters.

Gold cast member Jermaine Hayden, a Black student, played the same parts as Grendahl. Grendahl said relying on her team's Black actors helped her overcome the challenge of playing characters not of her own race.

"I argue there is no such thing as a colorblind casting, but rather, there is an intentional choice being made by either the creative director or their directive team," Grendahl said. "It's an examination of how people process the information, from a person of color or a character of color, coming from a person of color, versus, how do they understand it coming from a white person."

The production was also shaped by the political climate in which it was rehearsed. Jermaine Hayden, a first-year theater major, said he used the play to channel his anger following the 2024 election.

"The day after the election was our

first rehearsal," Hayden said. "Everyone was very emotional and for me as an artist, I felt the best way that I could put my emotions in how I felt that our country is being dealt with into the art."

With the new presidency, many marginalized groups found themselves under attack. This reality weighed heavily on the cast and they tried to portray that via the monologues delivered and the dances performed.

Harper choreographed a number called "This is America," and Hayden said the most powerful moment comes when all the actors collectively raise their hands in the air. The cast — some with no prior dance experience — had to learn together how to express struggle through movement. Hayden said the goal was to emphasize solidarity in every step.

Beyond rehearsing lines and practicing the dances, the cast used their time backstage to educate themselves. They dove into the history of ostracization in the education system, exploring how marginalized voices had been silenced for generations. The goal wasn't just to perform — it was to understand.

Harper said the true understanding of these varied stories could only come from embodiment. It wasn't

enough to hear these stories or see them unfold from a distance — the cast had to live them.

"When you step into somebody else's story and you have to tell it and live it or also express it, you will feel it differently than when it was just told to you or when you just see it happening," Harper said. "We become so desensitized to the amount of violence that we see all over the place — we almost expect the bad."

Awareness alone isn't enough, according to Williams. He said his inclusion of a colorblind cast and real-life footage of police brutality and racism surrounding marginalized children challenges the crowd's thinking. Williams said by seeing raw footage, viewers can sense the divide set up against marginalized communities is intentional and the information they have learned is false.

"Historically, we know that the easiest way to conquer anything is to divide people," Williams said. "We don't look any further about what is being stated that it makes it easy for us to bite each other, especially those who are underrepresented to fight against each other when the true attack is coming from those who are trying to maintain this

white supremacist system."

Williams said there's a difference between being an ally and being a co-conspirator. An ally is someone who stands behind the comfort of social justice, but a co-conspirator puts themselves on the front lines based on their privilege.

"We are where we are because we have too many allies and not enough co-conspirators," Williams said. "People love to be comfortable in where they are situated. But you only become a co-conspirator when you're willing to give up that place of comfort and step into that realm of discomfort."

Williams said "Notes From the Field" makes people momentarily uncomfortable in their seats for two hours — but inspires discussion thereafter.

Hayden said in addition to the conversations the show will spark, it also gives students a chance to remember the names of Black lives that were lost.

"This show is not looking to the future, but looking to the past," Hayden said. "A big part of the movement is to say their names, which is exactly what we're doing. We are uplifting these people's stories who were, unfortunately, murdered by the police and who faced a lot of injustice."

"Notes From the Field" covers injustices over the span of two hours, but that wasn't enough. Injustices are still happening especially in the current political turmoil around DEI initiatives. Williams said this is a time to learn and act on social justice outside the classroom.

In addition to looking at the past, Williams said it's important to consider present issues. At a time when debates over free speech dominate college campuses and public discourse, Williams said there's a tension between the principle and the practice.

"We're in a system that talks about freedom of speech but really doesn't respect freedom of speech at the same time," Williams said. "Hopefully, by listening to this — by seeing this — students gain a better understanding to be better people and to think beyond themselves and about all of those who are less fortunate."



COURTESY OF JOE MAZZA

The Loyola student production made "Notes From the Field" its own by adding music and colorblind casting.

Munya Noman is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.

Jordana at Lincoln Hall

By KEVIN STOVICH,
kstovich@luc.edu

Bedroom pop artist Jordana invited audiences into her sonic cottage Feb. 18 at Lincoln Hall. Jordana's Chicago stop coincides with her Lively Premonition Tour, supporting her 2024 album of the same name.

Nova Scotian singer Rachel Bobbit opened the show with her otherworldly mix of indie rock and programmed drum beats. Accompanied by a guitar, bass and sample machine, she started off with "More," a song layered with prerecorded vocal harmonies, shoegazey guitars and her sharp, slicing voice.

Much of Bobbit's set comprised unreleased music for a soon-to-be-released album, although she also performed a harrowing rendition of Sharon Van Etten's "Love More." Like an interlude, vocal samples looped between songs, often being the foundation for each ensuing track.

The final song Bobbit performed, an untitled demo, was the strongest of her set. The incomplete melody overflowed with vocal harmonies laid over a punchy hip-hop beat, evoking the spirit of J Dilla's instrumentals.

After Bobbit's set, the stage cleared and the instrument-cluttered space finally opened up. A neon sign of Jordana's name signed in pink cursive over yellow block letters was revealed. The sign acted as a microcosm of her performance to come — bright and peppy, but sweet and loving at the same time.

Coming out in a self-described "cottagecore" outfit, Jordana skipped to the mic as her band took the stage.

Jordana's twee persona matched the venue's quaint and intimate nature. The eye-level stage had no barricade, allowing Jordana to sing directly to the audience. The smell of incense wafted through the air, creating a moody, home-like atmosphere.

"We're gonna play the record top to bottom because I want to," Jordana said before pulling out an electric violin and jumping into "We Get By."

Jordana's spirited ad libs matched her vigorous violin, delivering chamber pop bliss to the audience. Soft, rose-colored light reflected off the glossy white exterior of her violin.

The following "Like A Dog" was more of an indie-pop cut, with blossoming guitar strums and shimmering keyboards giving way to a groovy chorus. Jordana swapped her violin for a tambourine, playing along with the beat.

Prerecorded vocals backed "Heart You Hold," but as the song progressed, the audience's singing replaced the need for backing vocals. Pulsating pink and purple lights matched the slow plucks of the bass and tambourine hits.

Mellow guitar and keyboard set the mood for the calmer love song "This Is How I Know."

"You like to joke, we love jokes," Jordana said before "Multitudes of Mystery." "This next song has a lot of jokes in it. There's a fart in it."

"Multitudes of Mystery" is structured around fictitious — yet comical — phone calls concerning a mishap-filled night of partying and drugs. The song climaxed when Jordana fell to her knees in a scream, surrounded by disorienting lights and chaotic instrumentation.

The similarly hectic "Raver Girl" followed, as Jordana danced about under a turquoise hue and invited attendees to do the same. The track culminated in a full-fledged dance party, complete with flashing rainbow lights and a disco ball.

"These next few songs are breakup songs, so we're gonna feel great and feel sad," Jordana said with a slight grin.

"Wrong Love" showcased her vocal versatility, from a sultry, lower register on verses to high-pitched wails on the outro.

Jordana picked up a guitar to play "Anything For You," slowly adding in-

struments as the lyrics progressed. Unlike the previous song, Jordana performed with a defeated timbre in her voice while preserving a light, sweet sound.

On "The One I Knew," spacey keyboard notes radiating through the air were sliced in half by Jordana's vocals. The chorus overflowed with belts, weaving through plucks of the guitar.

While not the final song of her set, "Your Story's End" was the last of her album. Jordana picked her guitar back up and immersed her fans into a dreamy world, heightened by the ever-shifting colored lights.

"You didn't think I'd go through a whole show without playing one song that's not mine — and that song is a Steely Dan cover," Jordana said before playing "Any Major Dude Will Tell You."

In an extra theatricality, she and her guitarist exchanged solos, as if they were playing catch.

She concluded her set with what she called the "TV Girl Trilogy" — three songs from her and the indie band's collaboration album "Summer's Over."

Jordana sang the title track with a sensual — almost lustful — tone, abandoning the previous song's silly sentiment.

"Sweet to Dream," performed in a dark blue haze, evoked a ghostly atmosphere. Her delicate voice progressively rose, peaking at a vocal crest, dripping with whimsical emotion.

When the opening vocal samples for "Better in the Dark," played, the audience erupted into cheers. Jordana danced under a shower of rainbow lights while playing the iconic guitar sample, ending the concert in an exuberant fashion.

In the end, the audience members were merely guests in the dreamy, otherworldly home of Jordana.

Kevin Stovich is a Staff Writer for *The Loyola Phoenix*.



LANIA WOODWARD / THE PHOENIX

The senior showcase allowed students to display personal stories through dance.

Senior Dance Show

By RANIA WOODWARD,
rwoodward@luc.edu

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts hosted the 10th anniversary of the Senior Solo Showcase Feb. 23 in the Mundelein Center's Palm Court. The dancers, graduating this May, each performed solo dances as a capstone to their four years of learning dance at Loyola.

The show featured 11 solos and one group number, showcasing the external beauty of internal growth.

Parents, friends and other undergraduate dancers came to support the fourth-years as they displayed their individual stories through the art of dance.

The show was warmly introduced by artistic director Sarah Cullen Fuller, who first implemented the show at Loyola 10 years ago.

"These performances aren't just a presentation but a synthesis of the last four years," Fuller said. "They are extraordinary artists."

After the introductions, each performer showcased their individual learning and growth as performative artists.

The dances all had their own separate choreographers whom they worked together with to create the dance — for example, Fuller was one of the choreographers.

Each dancer had a unique song choice, including pop hits like "Stay" by Rihanna, late 20th century jazz rhythms and orchestral instrumentals. Dance styles spanned contemporary, jazz and lyrical — which is a jazz-inspired form of ballet.

All of the dancers were clothed in white, but wore various types of clothing as well to represent their unity as fourth-years but individuality as dancers.

Expressions from the performers ranged from looks of longing to playfulness, as some bounced joyfully in the air and others moved with a flurry of repetitive moments, clouded by a somber tone.

Isabel Goetzke, double majoring in dance and anthropology, emphasized

audience interaction as she made eye contact with one member and mimicked using a telephone while mouthing, "Call me."

Zoe Holland, a dance and communication studies double major, particularly utilized Palm Court's area, as her dance started and ended with her standing on a chair as a prop.

Isaac Jung, a fourth-year double majoring in dance and theater, featured many sharp and intense movements while Bri Coleman, a fourth-year double majoring in dance and biology, danced fluidly as she glided across the space in a combination of kicks and leaps.

Allison Kiewatt, a fourth-year double majoring in dance visual communication, even utilized the time between the music to dance in the silence for a few moments.

Ariana Vadhera, a fourth-year majoring in dance and double minoring in biology and bioethics premed, utilized Palm Court in a unique way by lying against the wall and looking out to the lake to begin and throughout her wistful performance.

The 11 dancers came together in the end in a display of unity, grasping each other's hands as a symbol of togetherness. This dance was choreographed by Fuller and the fourth-years. It featured solos, intimate duets, trios and all performers dancing all at once.

Fourth-year Anna Labriolo, a fourth-year double majoring in exercise science and dance, said the performance held personal significance to her.

"It demonstrated strength, confidence, perseverance and my personal thumbprint that I want to leave on the Dance Program here at Loyola," Labriolo said.

Dancers at Loyola will come together again to present the Spring Dance Informance at the Newhart Family Theatre April 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Rania Woodward is a Staff Writer for *The Loyola Phoenix*.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX

Jordana brought her Lively Premonition tour to Chicago's Lincoln Hall Feb. 18.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX

Indie artist Rachel Bobbit opened.

Raising the curtain to find a 'Clue'

By BRENDAN PARR,
bparr@luc.edu

CIBC Theatre's rendition of "Clue" is a fanciful farce.

Based on the 1985 film and board game "Clue," CIBC Theatre's playful stage production follows six secretive strangers invited to a secluded maze-like mansion.

Butler Wadsworth (Jeff Skowron) shepherds party attendees Colonel Mustard, Mrs. Peacock, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Miss Scarlet and Professor Plum about the manor. Invited by the anonymous Mr. Boddy, the guests investigate their blackmailing host and the murderer lurking in their midst.

"Clue" is a whodunnit in the vein of an Agatha Christie novel with the slapstick wit of a Mel Brooks feature. Cloak-and-dagger antics run rampant with clever wordplay — "no Boddy," "no body" and "nobody" — and double entendres as the cast stumbles over words as often as they do each other.

The ensemble parodies seedy sycophants within American politics, spanning from incompetent colonels to

paid mistresses. Set in 1954, the show satirizes McCarthyist paranoia, adding comedic deceit to the murder spree.

Mrs. Peacock (Joanna Glushak) is a prissy politician's wife predisposed to loud outbursts and sneaking nips from a flask. Often smiling like an unaware child, Colonel Mustard (David Hess) is laughably unphased by dire circumstances. Mrs. White (Donna English) is an apathetic widow, caring more about money than her deceased physicist husband.

Further lampooning American archetypes, Mr. Green (John Shartzter) is a politician prone to accidents and melodramatic tantrums. Miss Scarlet (Christina Anthony) is a businesswoman in the practice of seducing customers. And despite being an academic, Professor Plum (Jonathan Spivey) does little thinking.

Each guest acts as one of the six playable characters in the original Hasbro game, first given life by the movie's cast. Performances crafted in the film by the likes of Michael McKean and Christopher Lloyd are earnestly evolved for the stage.

Playing Wadsworth, Jeff Skowron poshly keeps the cast in check. Sporting a pressed suit and cheeky demeanor, Skowron evolves the prudish character established by actor Tim Curry into a high-strung, sassy foil.

The stage's elegant set design elevates the murder mystery. Ornate chandeliers rise high above the cast as the mansion's interior is lined to simulate mahogany wood and aged glass windows.

Imitating the multi-room setup of both the film and boardgame, CIBC's "Clue" adapts to the stationary, single-stage setting. Each wall hides a hidden room behind it, rotating when the plot demands a change in scenery. The result is a massive, ornate dollhouse which invites the ensemble to run amok and tear asunder.

Mr. Green takes the brunt of the stunts — dropping glassware, dragging himself on the floor and collapsing side tables in anxious haste. The rest of the cast isn't short on physical comedy though, with ensemble members partaking in pratfalls, spit takes and even a waltz during an investigative montage.

Expertly-timed spotlights and musical cues emphasize the pantomime display. Featuring a tight 90-minute runtime with no intermission, the stagecraft of "Clue" ensures the theatrical frenzy neither skips a step nor outpaces itself.

For fans of the original movie, CIBC's "Clue" adheres to the same plot, structure and, at times, beat-for-beat line delivery. Though it's difficult to see how the play could upstage the film, it feels like a wasted opportunity to adapt it so strictly.

The original film is renowned for its twists and turns, but CIBC's rendition misses the chance to find new ways to surprise. The few variations in story are standout highlights, sparing more minutes with Wadsworth in the mansion's chaos, giving Mr. Green a reworked backstory and focusing more on the detail of blackmail evidence.

"Clue" is a carefully crafted work of comedy theatre. Its performers commit themselves to gaudy gags and characters, with a complementary set that contrasts mystique. Curious newcomers are bound to be

impressed, while longtime fans can enjoy a lively interpretation that respects the source material.

For those seeking a night of irreverent intrigue, CIBC Theatre can "Clue" one in.

"Clue" will run until March 2. Tickets are available online.

Brendan Parr is *The Arts Editor* for *The Loyola Phoenix*.



COURTESY OF EVAN ZIMMERMAN
CIBC Theatre's "Clue" captivates.

Joffrey Ballet's 'Golden Hour' glows with grace on The Lyric Opera House's stage

By RANIA WOODWARD,
rwoodward@luc.edu

The Joffrey Ballet lights up Chicago with a mesmerizing glow in its show "Golden Hour" at the Lyric Opera House.

The two-hour-and-a-half-hour runtime divides itself across four separate acts, including two 15-minute intermissions. "Under the Trees' Voices" opens as a tribute to environmental issues, followed by "Heimat," which details a peaceful and joyous family. The penultimate act "Andante" conveys the joys and tensions of romantic relationships, and "Princess and the Pea" closes with a whimsical take on the childhood story.

"Under the Trees' Voices," which premiered in 2021, was choreographed with costume concepts by Nicolas Blanc, who dedicated the piece to his grandfather Huber Chassin.

From the intricate green foliage on the dancers' costumes to the three-foot-long leaves hanging solemnly onstage, the theme of nature was expertly realized.

Featuring a live pit band below the stage, audience members took in the dances in tandem with excellent orchestral music. Dancers were also able to expertly dance in the silence.

After the first intermission came 2022's "Heimat," choreographed by Cathy Martson with only five dancers.

"Heimat" was a tear-jerking portrayal



COURTESY OF CHERYL MANN / THE JOFFREY BALLET

The Joffrey Ballet's performance "Golden Hour" spans four segmented ballet performances across two-and-a-half hours.

of a joyful family living a mundane life with few conflicts. Overly simplistic with not much occurring, the show explored the hope for what loving families should be — affectionately uneventful.

Donning same-styled monochromatic pastel outfits, the costuming portrayed their individual personalities and lives with different colors, though they were still connected as a familial unit.

The shift from the large orchestra to a quartet reflected the small stage ensemble and intimacy of personal relationships. The tempo was lightly upbeat when the children were fighting for their mother's attention and then softly solemn during moments between parents.

"Andante," choreographed by Yuri

Possokhov, made its world debut at "Golden Hour." The section opened with a striking scene of a man and woman embracing in light, while another man lay sprawled on the floor in agony under a spotlight.

"Andante" portrayed the story of two men vying for the same woman. The three-person show ended in a full circle, presenting the loving couple with the interloper distraught on the floor.

The costuming was unexpectedly retro, the bright colors being a seeming tribute to the '80s — the woman wore a bright purple leotard while the man sported blue athletic shorts atop his own leotard. While the couple's costumes complemented each other, the excluded

man's costume was modern with a white button down and green shorts.

"Princess and the Pea" came after the second and final intermission. Choreographed by Dani Rowe, this section also made its world debut at Joffrey's "Golden Hour."

The piece was set in a world where the princess from the original tale transformed the entire world into peas. People ate only peas, clothed themselves in pea-green and were legally bound to only recognize the color of peas. The princess reigned as a tyrant.

The protagonist, Penelope — nicknamed Pea — was raised by her fathers who were forced to raise her in a pea-tinted world as the law stated. Upon finding

an orange carrot, Pea is introduced to the beauty of color — illegal for her to see.

After the authorities discover her crime, they seize Pea's fathers and send her to work at a farm and later a prison.

The plot thickens when Pea imaginatively competes in the "Mattress Match" — a ploy by the princess to trick her subjects and maintain her rule. The lively scene featured real mattresses, a massive wooden cloud and a man dressed as a carrot who encouraged Pea.

The act culminated with Pea winning the competition, showing forgiveness to the princess before a final celebratory dance of vegetables and color.

With elaborate costumes and props, "Princess and the Pea" blended whimsy, creative choreography and exuberant facial expressions to convey the story. Though costumes sometimes overshadowed the talented dancers, the piece remained a fun, lighthearted tale of growth.

The Joffrey Ballet has evolved classical ballet to include lyrical and contemporary dance, which "Golden Hour" demonstrates. "Golden Hour" beautifully presented a variety of themes with its different sections, having something for everybody.

"Golden Hour" is showing at the Lyric Opera House until March 2.

Rania Woodward is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.

'INVADER' cannot hold an audience

By MATT SORCE,
msorce@luc.edu

From the cinematography to the plot, "INVADER" is an incomprehensible mess that struggles to hold audiences captive.

Released Feb. 21, "INVADER" is the latest psychological horror film from director Mickey Keating and producer Joe Swangberg.

"INVADER" follows Ana, a young woman eager to visit her cousin Camila in the Chicago suburbs. But after countless unanswered calls, Ana begins to fear the worst. When she arrives to find Camila's home and car abandoned, Ana takes it upon herself to uncover the truth.

On paper, the premise has the makings of an engaging thriller. But in practice, it's a tiresome watch.

The film opens with the titular invader ransacking a home — smashing through walls, overturning furniture and eating the residents' food. Though disturbing, the significance of this scene remains unclear as neither the invader nor the home reappear until the final few minutes.

This lack of clarity mainly plagues the first act, but "INVADER" generally struggles to follow through on any one of the plot points it introduces.

Early on, Ana is nearly kidnapped by a suspicious taxi driver, but the story thread leads nowhere. If its purpose was to emphasize Ana's paranoia, there are more effective and subtle ways this could've been achieved.

Ana frantically calling her cousin while stranded at an unfamiliar bus stop is one of the instances that effectively conveys her anxiety. Everything else is banal.

At just 70 minutes, "INVADER" also suffers from mismanaged pacing. A large portion of the runtime is dedicated to Ana silently wandering through town. Though B-roll captures picturesque imagery of Midwestern suburbia, it quickly grows monotonous.

The plot starts to pick up momentum in the second half with the introduction of Camila's coworker, Carlo. Despite having no meaningful connection to Camila, he joins Ana's search.

Colin Huerta's charismatic performance as Carlo is lighthearted without clashing with the movie's serious nature. Vero Maynez is equally compelling as Ana, her anxious energy drawing the audience into her fear.

While the Invader (Joe Swanberg) is rarely shown, his enigmatic presence makes for an unnervingly absent antagonist.

The final act delivers an intensity missing from the rest of the film, as Ana and Carlo gradually sneak through Camila's house and evade the lurking invader. But by the time the suspense kicks in, it's far too little, too late.

Such a climax might've been a saving grace — if the audience could actually see what's happening. The handheld camerawork adds a sense of realism, but when the action intensifies, "INVADER" is bathed in an indecipherable blur of motion and darkness.

While a movie doesn't need to constantly hold the audience's attention, "INVADER" can barely get a grip.

Although not intentionally political, "INVADER" aims to be a critique of America's rising home invasions — marked by an FBI statistic shown before the movie.

With too many scenes of aimless exploration, it lacks any deeper commentary beyond surface level themes. The soundtrack, packed with cheap drones and cliched stingers, does little to enhance the atmosphere.

Despite the compellingly realistic performances, nothing saves "INVADER" from being an uneventful thriller.

"INVADER" is in select movie theaters now.

Matt Sorce is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.



MOLLY HANLEY / THE PHOENIX

Samantha Shannon's "The Bone Season" was originally released in 2013 as the first entry to a seven-book series.

Bookmarked: 'The Bone Season' dives into dystopia

By CLAIRE BOVINO,
cbovino@luc.edu

The Republic of Scion was established in London to control the rising population of clairvoyants — humans who can communicate with the aether, or the spirit realm.

The alleged danger of clairvoyants spurred leaders of Scion to make their very existence illegal. Forced to live underground, clairvoyants formed a hidden syndicate to live and work covertly.

Paige Mahoney — an illegal clairvoyant living in the heart of Scion London — spends her life working with the criminal syndicate, where she's known as the Pale Dreamer.

First released in 2013, Samantha Shannon's debut novel "The Bone Season" is a riveting start to a saga set to span seven books. "The Mime Order," "The Song Rising" and "The Mask Falling" continue the series. The fifth book will be released 2025, the sixth in 2026 and the seventh anticipates a 2027 release.

Set in dystopian England in 2059, Shannon writes a sordid story of danger, rebellion and — with enough searching — romance.

The book starts slowly while introducing readers to the new world, but Shannon's attention to detail and knack for worldbuilding makes it a breeze to fly through all 495 pages.

When Paige gets arrested for murdering two clairvoyant police officers, she's taken to the presumably abandoned city

of Oxford. Run by the ruling force known as the Rephaim, they train Paige and other clairvoyants to help take over England.

"I blinked at the sight of an old paraffin lamp," Shannon wrote as Paige meets the Rephaim. "Holding it was a statuesque woman, with polished bronze skin, impeccable posture, and black hair tumbling in loose curls to her waist. Her eyes were yellow, tinged with green, and glowed like candle flames."

Shannon's bold twists and thoughtful painting a detailed portrait in the reader's mind.

For Paige to survive Oxford, she must obey her keeper Arcturus Mesarthim and pass a series of tests to prove her mettle.

Shannon's bold twists and thoughtful plot structure allow the reader to sink into the world of Scion. Her message of rebellion shines through Paige's words and actions.

"Let the storm into you," Shannon wrote. "Hold it inside. See yourself as a force of nature, vast enough to defeat a god, and carry that image for all of your days."

When Paige discovers Arcturus is working against Scion, the two join together to incite a rebellion on the night of Paige's expected execution. When their plan goes awry, Paige has no choice but to return to London without Arcturus. The fate of the rebellion falls on her shoulders.

Spanning the last three chapters, Shannon's words of revolt sink their hooks into the reader's mind as she spins a tale with no choice but to end poorly.

Shannon turns the celebration of the founding of Scion into a brutal scene of Paige's start to the revolution.

However, Shannon's writing suffers from overzealous worldbuilding. Because of the vastness of the universe and characters, Shannon's diction is difficult to take in.

While the novel provides maps and a glossary of terms, it sometimes takes several rereads to understand how the world and character connections function.

Paige, in contrast, is an incredibly well-rounded and coherent character. Her backstory is slowly revealed throughout the book, helping the reader better understand her thoughts and actions. While Paige has a tough exterior, Shannon allows her to be a vulnerable, empathetic and loveable character.

Despite her independence and leadership, Paige's fears and insecurities are palpable. From her perspective, the reader witnesses the grisly and chilling horrors in the world Paige lives in.

Beginning a seven-book series is daunting for any reader, but with Shannon's imagination and knack for expressive characters, "The Bone Season" proves itself to be a delightful introductory book to the world of Scion.

"The Bone Season," along with the "The Mime Order," "The Song Rising" and "The Mask Falling," are available in all major bookstores.

"The Dark Mirror" — the fifth installation of the series — was released in bookstores Feb. 25.

SPORTS

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Sitori Tanin triumphs in Loyola career

By **ALEXANDER SCIARRA**,
asciarr@luc.edu

Sitori Tanin has seen a lot in her five years with the Loyola women's basketball team, undergoing a switch of head coaches from the former Kate Achter to the current Allison Guth. She's also one of the few in the program to have experienced life before the switch to the Atlantic 10 Conference.

The graduate forward — colloquially known as "Sit" by teammates and coaches — made an instant impact as a first-year, appearing in all 27 games in the 2020-21 season and starting in six before receiving a spot on the Missouri Valley Conference All-Freshman Team.

Since Achter's departure a year later, Tanin's role has steadily increased under Guth's regime, both on the court and off it, as she's served as a liaison for Loyola in conference media days, in Name, Image and Likeness conferences and makes consistent appearances on program gameday posters.

Tanin has utilized the experience of becoming a face of Loyola's brand as an opportunity to best represent her teammates, coaches and the

school itself. She said she consistently tries to stay true to Loyola values — being a servant for others and always remaining grateful.

Early on in Guth's Loyola tenure, while holding initial player meetings, she said she was immediately cognizant of Tanin's kind demeanor and understanding of a new coaching environment.

"I just think she embraced the culture of wanting to maximize people with the positive coaching," Guth said. "Affirmations — and that's not all rainbows, butterflies and sunshine — but I think she embraced the culture of wanting to maximize her as an athlete, as an intellect and as a human."

Tanin's workout buddy and fourth-year forward Destiny Jackson has been with her every year, except her first, and has experienced Tanin's evolution from a reserved teammate to a more vocal leader within the squad — even up to her selection as one of three captains for the 2024-25 season.

Jackson said early on in her career, while dealing with the struggles of adjusting to college and injuries, she and Tanin developed a relationship around a "flower" metaphor.

A tough day for Jackson — who was suffering from a foot injury at the time — had her lamenting that her flowers were dead. Tanin responded by ensuring they'd never be dead because she'd always be around to water them.

Since then, Jackson said she's spent her career knowing she'll always have a shoulder to lean on, no matter the struggle.

During the preseason and facing the arrival of 10 new players, Tanin's off-court role extended to team development and cohesion. Her integration of transfers and first-years into the team culture was crucial and "mother-like," according to Guth, and led to her commanding a quick vote for captain alongside graduate guard Thoranna Kika Hodge-Carr and third-year guard Kira Chivers.

Serving as captain is another accolade in Tanin's career, which started in second grade while watching her siblings play basketball. Despite the allure of gymnastics at the time, Tanin continued to play the game through high school before the consideration of college came up.

A native from Middleton, Wisc., Tanin said she initially viewed Loyola — more specifically Chicago — as a new environment with a unique opportunity.

"I knew I wanted to kind of get outside of my comfort zone from coming from like a smaller town in Wisconsin," Tanin said. "I thought it'd be great to get into something different in going to Chicago — obviously the closest, but a big city."

Tanin said despite overcoming an initial culture shock and appreciating the campus, a lunch with her future teammates gave her the critical inspiration to join Loyola.

She wouldn't be alone in the move from Middleton to Chicago. Along for the ride was then-boyfriend — current fiancé — and Loyola men's volleyball's Parker Van Buren. The two were both recruited by Loyola, and Van Buren eventually surprised Tanin by announcing his commitment to the Ramblers.

Both in their graduate year, the pair announced their engagement in August, nearly eight years since they first began dating during their sophomore year of high school.

Van Buren said the decision to ask Tanin to marry him felt like a celebration of their collegiate careers.

"I thought it would be fun to do it — get married, pop the question while we were both at Loyola still for our fifth years," Van Buren said. "Felt like we had graduated in a sense, but we're still going to school, still playing our sports."

The potential to continue her basketball career after Loyola has become a recent development, as the couple have begun discussing opportunities overseas. There's a distant possibility the two could end up in places far apart, but the prospect didn't seem to daunt Van Buren.

"I would say that it excites me a lot," Van Buren said. "As someone close to her, she has that — I know she has the ability, I know she has the potential — and I think she's gonna be very successful if she chooses to play overseas. It makes me excited too, that I get to keep watching her play basketball."

Even with the basketball expertise, Tanin is wrapping up a graduate degree in global strategic communications. Beyond making appearances on Loyola Athletics social media outlets, she oversees a small Youtube account that doc-

uments life both off and on the court.

Tanin has also utilized her communication background to promote altruistic efforts with communities. In September, she and Van Buren released an NIL merchandise line to donate funds toward Crohn's disease research. In early January, she played in a "Crohn's Disease Cause Game," honoring the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation — a group Tanin has close ties with.

Even with her eventual departure on the horizon, Tanin still has the task of leading the Ramblers through her final-ever college tournament with the A10 Championship looming.

Regardless of the result, she'll still have made a major mark on the program.

"I'm just gonna miss so many things about her — as a human, as a student," Guth said. "Man, when you're a coach and you can walk across campus and hold your chest out with such pride that she's representing our team in the community the way she does in the classroom, the way she does — you just get really prideful of somebody who does it right, in all areas."

Alexander Sciarra the Deputy Sports Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



MEGAN DUNN / THE PHOENIX

Since her 2020-21 debut, Tanin has gone from young starter to team captain.



COURTESY OF LOYOLA ATHLETICS

Guth and Tanin are often seen together as the program's representatives.

Chivers rallies against Alzheimers

CHIVERS, CONTINUED

He was also present for her choir concerts, cheer competition and would talk with her before and after her basketball games.

"He would always, always be there for me," Chivers said. "I just really, really am super close to him. I am so appreciative of him."

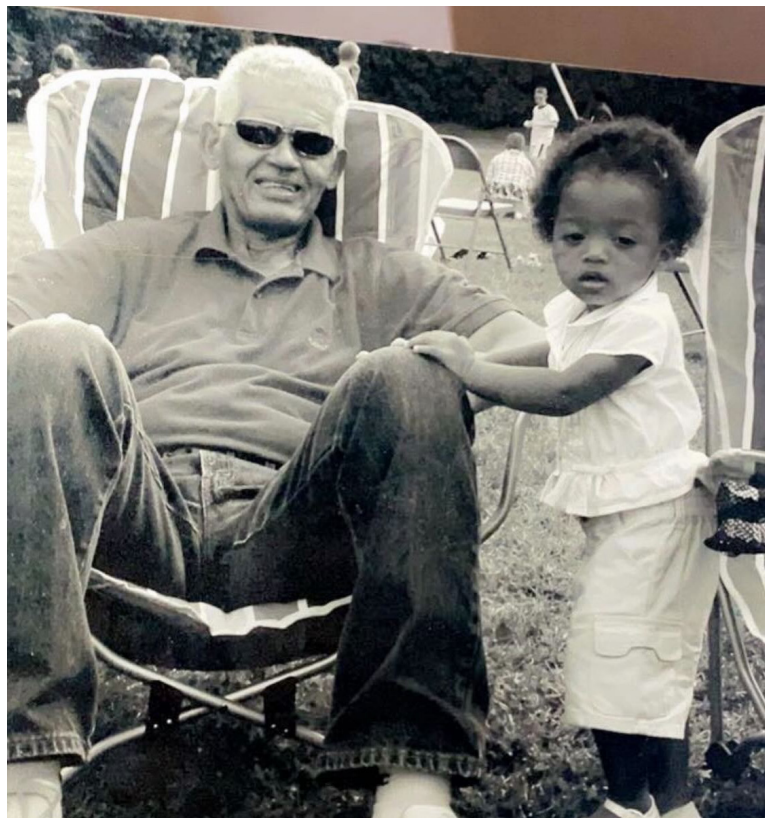
Chivers' family all live within 15 minutes from each other, which makes taking care of and spending time with her grandfather easier.

The idea for the fundraiser came around winter break when she was reflecting on her goals and spending time with family, according to Chivers.

"I thought this was a perfect opportunity to bring more awareness to Alzheimer's and dementia, in general," Chivers said.

Since Chivers' grandfather was diagnosed with Alzheimer's, she said she's had the opportunity to talk with teammates who also have connections with the disease, like second-year guard Audrey Deptula.

Deptula's grandmother, Judy, died two years ago while diagnosed with dementia. Deptula's mom would travel from Wisconsin — where Deptula and her family are from — to her grand-



COURTESY OF KIRA CHIVERS

Chiver's grandfather has been a major part of her life — a consistent presence.

parents' home in Georgia to ensure everything was being taken care of.

As her grandmother's memory worsened, Deptula said the emotional toll of visiting her grandmother increased.

"As it worsened, it was harder," Deptula said, "Because every time I'd see her I didn't know if it would be the last time I saw her, or if she even would remember we went to see her."

When Chivers made the post public, Deptula said she was really happy to see the support.

"It's just cool to see someone go through kind of the same thing," Deptula said. "Trying to help out and trying to find a cure and make sure people are getting the right support."

The two have been discussing options to raise awareness for the disease and those impacted by it, and they've also been pushing for an Alzheimer's Awareness game next season.

Since posting about the fundraiser and her grandfather, Chivers said she's grateful for the response she's been getting.

"I've been surrounded by so much love and support from everyone here and from social media and people donating," Chivers said. "It just makes my heart really happy to know that people are supporting this."

MINI CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6
7					
8					
	9				
		10			
			11		

By **KATRINA DE GUZMAN**,
kdeguzman@luc.edu

ACROSS

- One hailed on city streets
- With 3-Down, time for a beach trip
- Identifier at a morgue
- Father: Prefix
- Enthusiastic
- Old T-shirt, maybe

DOWN

- Winter hrs. for Chicago
- Each
- See 7-Across
- Resentful
- How Los Angeles is bigger than New York City
- Urging (on)

Solution at LoyolaPhoenix.com/Crossword

This crossword was edited by Mao Reynolds

SOFTBALL

Head coach Abbott amasses 100 wins

ABBOTT, CONTINUED

After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in public and interpersonal communication in 2011, Abbott returned to NC State a year later to volunteer as an assistant coach.

Abbott said she wasn't quite ready to return home after college, so she stayed in the coaching ranks in the south.

"I actually really enjoy getting to be around this environment and giving back to the game," Abbott said. "That's what kept me in it."

Abbott continued her coaching over seven years — with stops at Newberry College in South Carolina, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville and Northern Illinois University — before being named Loyola's head coach in August 2019.

Her first season at Loyola was anything but typical as it was shortened

due to the COVID-19 pandemic — but Abbott didn't let the odd season shake her confidence.

During the pandemic, Abbott had her first child, Everett James. Abbott said it gave her an opportunity to prioritize her personal time while putting support from the players' families and the community at the center of her coaching style.

"How do we keep family at the forefront of this?" Abbott said. "That's not just my family, that's their families too. It's how we make sure it's an environment where it's not just about the players feeling welcome, but it's about their community and their support system."

Abbott's coaching philosophy is all about support and community, according to fourth-year pitcher Peyton Pepkowski, who said she appreciates Abbott's ability to make all the girls feel seen and heard. She said she

knows Abbott cares for every member of the team, and her positivity helps drive the program.

Abbott said her strong sense for community draws from the idea that in order for females to play well, they have to feel good. The mental, physical and emotional health of her players is a top priority, and she wants to create a space where they can come to her and tell her whatever they need to.

"How do you promote them feeling good more times than not, especially when they're doing a lot all the time?" Abbott said. "None of us can be identified by just one thing, even if it is the majority of our lives, and I think that's a big part of my philosophy. It might be the most important thing, but in the big picture, it's not going to be the most important thing."

After her 100th win for Loyola, Abbott was surrounded in celebration by

players, assistant coaches, and families who helped her achieve the milestone.

Abbott said she's most proud of the 100 wins because, as a coach, she has the chance to see the players dedicate their time to being the best version of themselves.

"It's more for the team," Abbott said. "It's more about our players. It's more about the assistance we've had along the way. There's no way to do this alone, quite frankly, right?"

Fourth-year infielder Haley Wallace, who has been with Abbott for 75 of 100 wins, applauded Abbott and her milestone and said she was grateful to have been there during the celebration.

"Being able to be a small part of those 100 wins throughout my four years has been really great," Wallace said. "The past four years have been filled with great moments with coach Abbott and the rest of the team, so it's

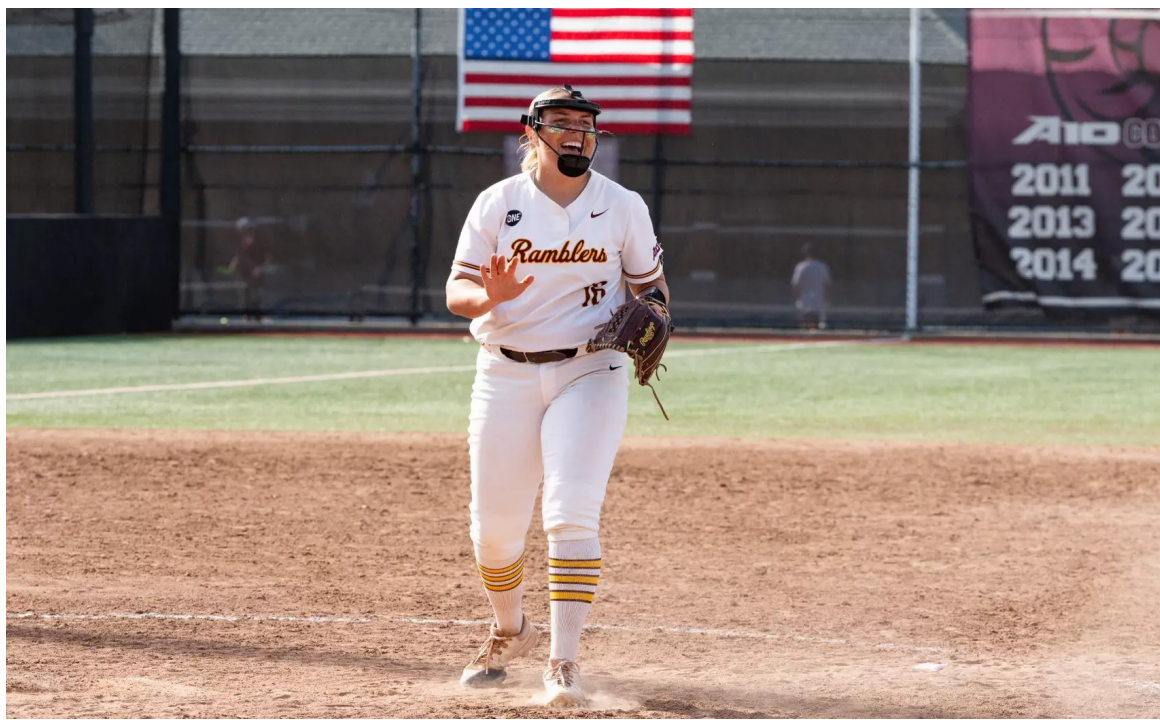
all been such a great experience."

While creating a team culture as a full-time coach and a mother of two, Abbott said she also takes full advantage of moments to herself. She said she tries to visit new coffee shops and restaurants whenever she gets a moment to herself because she wants to stay attached to who she is as a person, before she was a mom or coach.

Amid their season, Abbott's next move after 100 wins is to prepare to fill holes in the team, with seven fourth-years leaving and six new first-years still being integrated into the system.

"We can rely on our upperclassmen in the beginning of our lineup to make sure we're putting ourselves in the best position from an offensive standpoint," Abbott said. "Things like that will help us capitalize and get those wins that are super important at the end of the year."

SOFTBALL



COURTESY OF LOYOLA ATHLETICS

Softball will look to recover from a poor 2-11 start where they've suffered a massive run differential in the negative sixties.

Loyola drops three straight

By AMARA BULLARD,
abullard@luc.edu

The Loyola softball team traveled east to Greenville, N.C. to compete in the Pirate Invitational Feb 21-23 at East Carolina University. Due to inclement weather in the area, the Ramblers' first two games of the tournament were canceled and they resumed play the following day.

Boston College

In their first matchup against the Boston College Eagles, the Ramblers grabbed an early lead in the first inning when fourth-year infielder Bella Crimaldi hit an RBI single to bring home third-year outfielder Sierra Sass. A ground out by fourth-year outfielder Riley Owens brought home second-year infielder Nat Lesnicki to extend the lead to 2-0.

In the third inning, Owens ripped a single, which brought home fourth-year infielder Haley Wallace. Second-year outfielder Katie Mitchell hit a single of her own to bring in Lesnicki, giving Loyola a commanding 4-0 lead.

Boston College eventually got on the board in the bottom of the third after a sacrifice bunt brought in fourth-year Eagle outfielder Kali Case.

In the fifth, a single to right field from first-year infielder Addyson Borg allowed Owens to come home, bringing in the Ramblers' last run of the game.

The Eagles regained momentum in the bottom of the seventh after a fielder's choice RBI from fourth-year outfielder Darien McDonough. A following single by fourth-year utility player

Hannah Slike brought in third-year Boston College utility player Janis Espinoza to shrink the 5-3 lead.

A three-RBI double to right field from third-year Eagle infielder Meghan Schouten sealed a 6-5 walk-off victory for the Eagles, giving the Ramblers their first loss in Greenville.

Eastern Carolina University

Loyola's early scoring trend continued after a ground out by Lesnicki brought Sass in for the first run.

ECU tied things up at one at the end of the first inning after a double to center field by fourth-year Logan Sutton brought home graduate midfielder Morgan Johnson.

The Pirates scored after a Crimaldi throwing error allowed third-year outfielder Emma Jackson to scamper home for a 2-1 lead. Despite graduate catcher Annie Kate Dalton being caught while attempting to steal second, Johnson crossed home plate again for a 3-1 Pirate lead.

Loyola got back onto the board in the third inning when first-year utility player Abby Johnson scored on a sacrifice fly to bring the Ramblers within one.

The Ramblers kept rolling as Lesnicki singled to left center to bring home Sass, while a two-RBI single from Owens to center field brought home Lesnicki and first-year outfielder Averivander Woude for a 5-3 lead.

The Pirates answered with homers in the bottom of the third and fourth innings from redshirt second-year ECU infielder Hailey Massaro and Johnson, putting them up one at 6-5.

A two-RBI double from Massaro to

continue the fourth put the Pirates up 8-5 with three innings to play.

After two straight throwing errors from Wallace and Sass, Sutton found her way home a second time. A sacrifice fly to right field from third-year infielder Hailey Geijer brought in Massaro for the Pirates' final run of the game, securing a 10-5 win over the Ramblers.

Canisius University

After seven scoreless innings, Canisius managed to break away in the eighth following an RBI by second-year Golden Griffin outfielder Ella Johel.

With the bases loaded, first-year Canisius outfielder Tabitha Von Kolen walked. A fielder's choice single allowed fourth-year outfielder Alyssa Cloutier to make her way across home plate, putting the Golden Griffins up 2-0. A two-RBI double down the infield line by third-year infielder Bailey Alatorre brought in Johel and Cloutier for a 4-0 lead.

Loyola attempted a comeback in the bottom of the inning, with an initial RBI double down the right field line from first-year infielder Skyler Crocker that brought in second-year outfielder Katie Mitchell for a 4-1 score.

A Sass RBI single brought in Crocker to close the gap to two, but it wasn't enough to complete the comeback.

Next up, the Ramblers travel to Eugene, Ore. to compete in the Oregon Classic, hosted by the University of Oregon Feb. 28 to March 2. Loyola's first matchup will be against the University of San Diego Feb. 28, with the first pitch set for 12 p.m.

WOMEN'S GOLF

Tough finish for Ramblers in AZ

By MEGAN DUNN,
mdunn7@luc.edu

The Loyola women's golf team finished 19th out of 21 at the Rio Verde Invitational Feb. 21-23, hosted by Western Michigan University in Rio Verde, Ariz.

The Ramblers finished the 54-hole tournament with a grand total of 921 strokes (314-301-306). California Baptist University took the top spot with a one-stroke difference between them and runner-up Illinois State University. California Baptist finished with an even score and a total of 864 strokes (283-296-285).

California Baptist University's second-year Pusanisa Ekkantong took the individual first-place spot by scoring nine-under-par with a total of 207 strokes (68-75-64). There was a five-stroke difference between her and second place, held by Illinois State graduate student Jinyoung Yun.

The Ramblers were led by second-year Cassie Psuik, who finished the tournament tied for 21st alongside six other competitors with a score of 223 (78-72-73). Her placement was an improvement from the first round, where she tied for 65th with a score of 78. She finished the tournament with 10 birdies — the seventh most in the tournament.

Head coach Brandy Johnston said she was happy with the team's comeback after the first round — especially Psuik's.

"We got off to a slow start in the first round, so we had to play catch up most of the day," Johnston said. "Cassie did a great job pulling her round together after a quadruple bogey on her sixth hole. She showed a lot of resilience."

Following for the Ramblers was first-year Grace Hui, who ended the weekend with a score of 231 (77-77-77) and tied with five competitors for a 63rd-place finish. Two strokes behind Hui was fourth-year Jolie Brochu, who finished in a three-way tie for 72nd place and a total of 233 strokes (77-77-79).

Fourth-year Cate Reisinger finished with a score of 234 (82-75-77) and stood level with three competitors for 76th. First-year Madison Haugen rounded out the event tied for 101st place with Western Michigan University's third-year Kailey White and a total of 248 strokes (86-82-80).

Johnston said the team handled the rest of the tournament well after a rough start, which made a difference in the overall team score.

"We rebounded nicely in the second round," Johnston said. "We started on the stretch of holes that hurt us in the first round, and we handled it incredibly well. We reduced our 'big score' holes overall, and it made a huge difference in our team score."

Despite the gradual improvement during the tournament, Johnston said the team has a lot to work through as they take a temporary break from competition.

"This was a solid performance for us in a tough field, and we have lots of positives to build as we head into our spring break training trip in early March," Johnston said.

The Ramblers head south to Vero Beach, Fla. March 8-9 for their third invitational of the spring season to battle hosts Northern Kentucky University, among others.

Megan Dunn is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.



COURTESY OF LOYOLA ATHLETICS

Psuik rebounded from a tough start.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Atlantic 10 conference tournament preview

By **ALEXANDER SCIARRA**,
asciarr@luc.edu

With the 2024-25 regular season drawing to a close, the Loyola women's basketball team has the opportunity to grab the conference title at the Atlantic 10 Championship tournament in Henrico, Va. March 5-9.

The Ramblers finished last season with a 15-16 record, going 8-10 in conference matchups. They squeezed out a tight 53-52 win over Fordham University in the first round before falling to eventual champions University of Richmond in a 70-54 defeat.

With two games remaining in the season, final seedings and tournament matchups remain uncertain.

If the Ramblers maintain their 13th-place seeding, they'll face off in the first round against the 12th-seeded George Washington University.

Loyola's statistical struggles are evident, with their highest rankings reaching seventh at most in four categories — free throws made, 0.710, opponent three-point percentage, 0.308, assists 13.37 and steals, 7.85.

No Rambler breaks the top scorers or rebounders list, but graduate Nae Bernard ranks 11th in three-point field-goal percentage with a .394 average alongside 2.3 assists per game, good for 25th place.

Third-year guard Kira Chivers and graduate forward Sitori Tanin make appearances in league leaders, with Chivers recording a 14th-ranked 3.1 assists per game and 24th-ranked 1.2 steals per game. Tanin is 12th in blocked shots with an average of 0.9.

The opening round of the tournament begins at 12:00 noon CST when the 12th seed faces off the 13th seed. The first two rounds will be available to stream on ESPN+.

No. 1 University of Richmond

In their lone matchup against Loyola this season, the Spiders walked away with an 85-45 victory amidst a 15-1 record. Their only loss came against Fordham in their second conference game, and they recently claimed A10 regular season champions.

After winning their first A10 title last season, Richmond — currently ranked 33rd in the NCAA net — has continued their strong form with an offense that averages a conference-leading 2,134 points. They were expected to repeat as champs in the A10 preseason poll.

They also lead the league in field goal percentage and 3-point field goal percentage — 50.2% and 39% — alongside an average of 18.10 assists per game.

Three of their players — graduate forward Addie Budnik, third-year forward Maggie Doogan and third-year guard Rachel Ulstrom — were given preseason all-conference honors, with Budnik also making the All-Defensive

team. Doogan led the offensive efforts with a third-best 17.2 points per game and a 55.7% shooting percentage.

No. 2 George Mason University

On the way to an overall record of 23-5 and 13-4 in the conference, the Patriots handily defeated Loyola in a single 69-39 matchup. Their home losses have come at the hands of Saint Joseph's twice, Richmond and Davidson.

Entering the new season with four members awarded preseason all-conference honors — the most in the conference — George Mason is currently ranked third in both points scored and points allowed, with a total of 2050 and 1587 points, respectively.

Former Rookie of the Year and redshirt second-year forward Zahirah Walton has powered the offense with an eighth-ranked 14.9 points per game, while graduate forward Nalani Kaysia has run a tight ship with a fourth-best 9.5 rebounds per game and 31 blocks — sixth most in the conference.

Three players have 3-point field goal percentages landing them in the top 15 — one of them, fourth-year graduate Paula Suarez, is also second in total assists with 123.

No. 3 Saint Joseph's University

Saint Joseph's demolished Loyola in the lone matchup between the sides 83-45. The victory was one of many in the Hawks' 21-6 season record, with a 12-4 conference resume blotted by losses to Duquesne, VCU, Richmond and Rhode Island.

Saint Joseph's has been effective on both sides of the ball. Offensively, they own a team-wide field goal percentage of 45.8% while dishing out the second-highest amount of assists with 482. Defensively, the Hawks own the second stoutest defense, giving up only 55.5 points a game while holding opponents to just 29.9 rebounds per game.

Preseason all-conference first team member and third-year forward Laura Ziegler has been the spark behind the Hawks, posting conference bests with 18.5 points and 11.1 rebounds per game, with a fourth-most 119 assists.

Alongside Ziegler is second-team all-conference fourth-year guard Mackenzie Smith, who has posted a ninth-best 14.9 points per game while shooting 48.0% overall and 44.9% from three — good for tenth and third-place rankings.

No. 4 Davidson College

The only matchup between the Wildcats and the Ramblers this season ended with Davidson pulling away with a 68-51 victory. Davidson currently holds a 17-11 overall record and is 12-4 in conference with Richmond,

George Mason, Saint Louis and Saint Joseph's as their only losses.

Ranked fourth in the preseason poll, Davidson has the best 3-point defense in the conference, holding opponents to a 25.1% conversion rate. Their strong defense is also evident with a conference-leading 4.18 blocks per game, led by the efforts of fourth-year forward Millie Prior, who has a second-best season total of 34 blocks.

Alongside Prior, third-year guard Charlise Dunn and first-year forward Candice Lienafa have been active contesting shots, recording 27 and 14 total blocks, respectively.

Offensively, Lienafa and fourth-year guard Mallorie Haines have been shooting stars for the Wildcats. Lienafa has a second-best field goal percentage of 56.7%, and Haines has the second-best 3-point shooting percentage of 47.1%.

No. 5 University of Rhode Island

Rhode Island defeated the Ramblers 67-49 in the two's only matchup this season as they look to improve on their current record of 16-13 and 11-5 in conference play.

The Rams are three spots above their eighth-place ranking in the A10 preseason poll, with only two selections to the third-team all-conference team. A large part of their upward movement this season is due to their tough defense, which ranks first in 55.4 points allowed per game.

One of their all-conference members and All-Defensive honoree, third-year forward Anaelle Dutat, has recorded 7.8 rebounds per game — seventh best in the category. Behind her are fourth-year center Harsimran Kaur with 7.7 and redshirt third-year forward Howa Komara with 6.7.

The three have bolstered a squad, pulling in a conference-high 1,134 rebounds while only giving up 888 — third least in the A10 — while simultaneously recording 118 blocks.

No. 6 University of Massachusetts

Massachusetts has seen the biggest change from where they were placed in the preseason poll, having moved from 13th to sixth. They recently captured an 87-62 victory over the Ramblers amidst a 15-13 season and 10-7 in conference.

The Minutewomen have remained remarkably average, typically coming in seventh in general team stats. Of note is their opponents' shooting percentages — Massachusetts has limited opponents to a 37.7% field goal percentage while simultaneously allowing opponents to shoot 34.1% from three, second-worst in the league.

Individually, third-year forward Megan Olbrys has moved the Minutewomen forward with an 11th-best 13.9

points and sixth-best 8.2 rebounds per game. Also appearing in steals leaders is first-year guard Yahmani McKayle, with a third-best total of 53.

No. 7 University of Dayton

In two games against Dayton this season, the Ramblers dropped both — losing the first matchup 83-45 and the second 67-64. The Flyers have seen an improvement from their 11th-place preseason ranking, currently sitting in seventh with a 15-12 record, 9-7 in conference.

Dayton leads the A10 with the largest average attendance this year at 2,255 spectators — 500 more than the next-best Rhode Island — and has the sixth-best offense with 64.5 points per game and fifth-best 41.2% field goal percentage.

Despite no players earning all-conference honors, fourth-year guard Ivy Wolf ranks sixth in scoring, averaging 16 points a game. Alongside her is the versatile fourth-year forward Arianna Smith, who owns the 19th-best 11.9 points per game and leads the A10 in offensive rebounds with 111.

Accompanying the duo are graduate guards Rikki Harris and Nicole Stephens, who both cracked the top 25 players list in assists and steals.

No. 8 Duquesne University

Duquesne and Loyola only saw each other once this season when the 17-10 overall, 8-8 in conference, Dukes snatched a tight 75-70 win over the Ramblers.

As a team, Duquesne — previously ranked sixth in the preseason poll — has the second-most effective offense in the A10, averaging 73.2 points per game, tied with George Mason. They've also been extremely effective at forcing turnovers, leading the conference in steals with 297 for an average of 11 per game.

The driving force behind the Dukes has been the play of all-conference first-team member, All-Defensive honoree and fourth-year guard Megan McConnell, who has the second-highest amount of points with 497 and ranks 10th in rebounds with 194. She also leads in assists and steals with 142 and 110.

Supporting McConnell are third-year guard Jerni Kiaku with a 16th-highest 333 total points and graduate guard Megan Hutcherson with a fifth-highest 31 blocks.

No. 9 Fordham University

The Rams handled the Ramblers in a 68-53 victory amidst a season where they've gone 14-13, with an 8-8 record in the A10.

Fordham's strength this season has been in the paint, where they've commanded the most offensive rebounds with 417, albeit remaining in the middle of the pack in terms of total rebounds grabbed with the seventh-highest total of 1048.

Several Rams litter the A10 individual leaderboards, with all-conference first-team member and graduate guard Taylor Donaldson ranking 11th in the conference in total points — 366 — alongside a seventh-best total of 46 steals and fifth-best 59 threes made.

The two-way play of graduate forward Irene Murua is present in the scoring and rebounding leaderboards, while fourth-year guard Taya Davis has the fourth-best total of 118 assists and 11th-best 44 steals.

No. 10 Virginia Commonwealth University

Loyola was one of VCU's early conference wins in the season, with a 62-44 victory. The Rams are the highest seeded team to currently hold a record below the .500 mark, with a slate of 12-16 while going 6-10 in conference play.

VCU's offensive and defensive play ranks near the bottom of the A10 — both ranked 13th — but their rebounding margin is a different story, as they rank fourth in the conference with 1050 boards grabbed and 912 given up.

The Rams have seen a five-point drop from their original fifth-place preseason position, but the duo of third-year guard Mary-Anna Asare

and graduate forward Mykel Parham continue to perform after receiving preseason all-conference honors.

Asare has recorded 427 total points, 72 assists and 46 rebounds — good for eighth, 17th and sixth in their respective categories — while Parham has had a monstrous season in the paint with a second-most 292 rebounds and leading 38 blocks.

No. 11 Saint Louis University

The Billikens have seen a five-rank drop since receiving fifth in the preseason poll, with a 12-16 overall record and 6-10 in the conference. The Ramblers defeated St. Louis 66-63 in their first meeting, while the upcoming rematch will be both's final 2024-25 regular season game.

The winners of last season's Women's National Invitational Tournament, the Billikens lead the A10 with a 78.8% free throw percentage, while also recording the third-most rebounds at 1,094 and second-most steals with 288.

Graduate forward Peyton Kennedy, fourth-year guard Kennedy Calhoun and third-year guard Brooklyn Gray have been standouts for Saint Louis, with Kennedy and Calhoun both receiving preseason honors.

Along with honors, Calhoun has the third-most assists and second-most steals — 120 and 95 — while fourth-year forward Tierra Simon has a fifth-highest 243 rebounds and ninth-highest 27 blocks.

No. 12 George Washington University

Loyola squeaked out a tight 67-63 win over George Washington, as the Revolutionaries have maintained the exact 13th-place ranking they received in the A10 preseason poll and may be the Ramblers' first-round opponents.

Despite their record, George Washington has shown spurts of tough defense, as they've limited opponents to an average 38% field goal percentage and are first at grabbing defensive rebounds with 26.7 per game — their total rebound count of 1,079 is fourth-best in the A10.

Graduate guard Makayla Andrews is a standout — present in the top 25 scorers and rebounders with 297 points and 116 rebounds. Graduate forward Paige Mott and second-year forward Sara Lewis also break into the top 25 for rebounds and blocks.

No. 14 La Salle University

The Ramblers' first conference game of the season was a loss to La Salle, who, since the victory, have gone on to snatch one more win against Saint Bonaventure amidst an 8-21 season record with 14 losses in the A10.

Ranked last in the preseason poll, the Explorers, despite giving up the second-most points with 2,026, have recorded the most rebounds with 1,100, seventh-most assists with 368 and third-most steals with 285.

Redshirt second-year guard Ashleigh Connor has been a versatile figure for La Salle, appearing in the A10's top 25 for scoring, rebounding, free throw percentage, assists and steals.

No. 15 St. Bonaventure University

The Ramblers grabbed their conference victory with a 57-40 win over the Bonnies in the middle of the season, who, at 6-21 overall, have only snatched wins against La Salle and Saint Louis for a 2-14 A10 record.

St. Bonaventure ranks near the bottom or last in nearly every statistical category, with the sole exception being their 3-point shooting — coming in ninth with a 31.1% shooting average on 164 made. Their free throw percentage is fifth-best at 73.5%.

Redshirt third-year Dani Haskell sits in the middle top 25 scorers with a 13th-placed 355 points. The Bonnies were expected to finish second-to-last in the preseason poll.



BELLA ADAMS / THE PHOENIX

The Ramblers sit in 13th place in the Atlantic 10 conference standings, with three members in the top-25 of various stats.

SPORTS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Loyola makes Gentile a 'no fly zone' in Dayton win

By **ANDI REVESZ**,
arevesz@luc.edu

The Loyola men's basketball team defeated the University of Dayton 76-72. Fourth-year guard Des Watson led the charge for the Ramblers scoring 22 points, while Dayton's fourth-year forward Nate Santos recorded 18.

Watson said the rivalry between the squads was a motivator coming into the game.

"It affected it in a positive way, not really a negative way," Watson said. "It's just more fun. We're just ready to play, ready to go to war against them. We don't like them. They don't like us."

Santos scored the first bucket of the game with a layup, before fourth-year guard Enoch Cheeks made two at the line after third-year guard Jayden Dawson received a technical foul for boasting after blocking a Santos layup attempt.

Following Cheek's free throw attempts, an official timeout was called to recalibrate one of the nets which had come undone.

After the interruption, third-year guard Kymany Houinsou took a Dayton miss coast-to-coast for a layup and Loyola's first points of the game. Second-year center Miles Rubin followed suit and put back a second-chance layup to tie it at four.

Cheeks and Rubin traded jumpers before Rubin scored a tip-in layup, and first-year Flyer forward Amaël L'Etang slammed a dunk to keep it even at eight at the first media timeout.

Rubin added one at the line before Watson converted a turnaround jumper. Redshirt fourth-year Dayton guard Posh Alexander brought the Flyers within one after a successful trip to



CAROLINE CLIFFORD / THE PHOENIX
The Pack was sold out Friday night.

the line before another Watson jumper kept the Ramblers ahead 13-10.

Fourth-year forward Jalen DeLoach made a jumper as third-year Flyer guard Javon Bennett sank a 3-pointer. Another three from third-year Dayton forward Jacob Conner and a wide-open dunk by L'Etang gave the Flyers a 19-15 advantage at a media timeout.

Dawson found Rubin for an alleyoop dunk, which was replicated on the other side of the court by graduate Flyer forward Zed Key. Two consecutive jumpers from third-year guard Jalen Quinn and graduate guard Sheldon Edwards Jr. brought the score to an even 21, which was short-lived as

Cheeks made a three on the other side of the court.

The Ramblers crept ahead after a Watson jumper and a steal and layup by Quinn with just over four minutes left to play in the half.

Watson took a steal all the way to finish a dunk. Cheeks answered with a jumper, which was immediately nullified on the next Loyola possession by a Quinn jumper.

Cheeks and DeLoach traded jumpers before Dawson sank Loyola's first three of the night. L'Etang answered with a three of his own, and a missed buzzer-beater from Alexander closed the first half at 34-31 in favor of the Ramblers.

Rubin started the second half with an explosive dunk, followed by a L'Etang 3-pointer on the next possession. Watson and Cheeks exchanged layups, and Rubin completed a hookshot before Dayton forced a turnover on a shot clock violation.

Edwards Jr. cooked up six points with three free throws alongside a 3-pointer. DeLoach recorded a block on the other side of the court, forcing the Flyers to call a timeout down 45-36.

L'Etang stole the ball from Loyola and found Bennett for a layup. Watson drained a 3-pointer, and Dawson made a jumper before Santos converted three at the line after being fouled by Quinn during a 3-point attempt.

Quinn and redshirt third-year Dayton guard Malachi Smith each made jumpers, and DeLoach added two at the line before draining a jumper of his own. Redshirt first-year Dayton forward Jaiun Simon drained a three before a minute-long drought, which was broken by a Santos layup to cut into the 56-48 Rambler lead.

Another drought beset the court until Santos rebounded his own missed free throw and finished with a layup. Watson responded with a 3-pointer and Rubin sent back another block.

Santos made two at the line before DeLoach responded on the next possession. Santos kept the scoring gap tight with a jumper and inched the Flyers closer with a 3-pointer to make it a 61-57 game.

Santos added two more at the line a minute later, which was canceled out by a Watson jumper. Bennett made his own jumper before Quinn added two at the line for a four-point advantage.

Cheeks took a successful trip to the line before Edwards Jr. sank a three. Santos fouled out of the game — sending Gentile into a refrain of "NSYNC's 'Bye Bye Bye' — which allowed Houinsou to make one at the line.

A Bennett layup brought Dayton within three, but Rubin and fourth-year forward Francis Nwaokorie each added one free throw to keep the Ramblers ahead by five. Bennett negated the previous points with a layup, making it 71-68.

The final points of the game all came from free throws, as the Ramblers closed it out with five more points from Watson and Quinn, while the Flyers added four — with Smith as the lone scorer. Cheeks attempted a full-court buzzerbeater to end the game but missed, cementing the 76-72 Rambler win.

Head coach Drew Valentine said he was impressed with the crowd turnout, and how it helped the team pull off the win.

"We don't win at home without that home crowd tonight," Valentine said. "We're a hard team to beat here. I gotta

give our guys credit because they continue to find ways to win."

The Ramblers stay in Gentile for their next game against George Washington University, Wednesday, Feb. 6. Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. and the game can be streamed on Marquee Sports Network.

Andi Revesz is the Sports Editor for The Loyola Phoenix.



CAROLINE CLIFFORD / THE PHOENIX
Edwards Jr. made two 3-pointers.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Ramblers soar past Hawks in 3-1 victory

By **MOLLY HANLEY**,
mhanley3@luc.edu

Loyola men's volleyball defeated Quincy University in a four-set match Feb. 22, with redshirt fourth-year outside Parker Van Buren leading the Ramblers with 20 kills while second-year middle blocker Relja Milosavljevic carried the Hawks with 11 kills.

The first set began with a kill by second-year outside Jake Read, which was answered by a block and a kill from the Hawks' second-year opposite Aleksandar Sosa. A following Quincy service error tied the set at two.

The Hawks' third-year outside Ljubisa Novakovic tabbed his first kill, followed by three straight Van Buren kills.

A Quincy attack error was met by an ace by second-year outside Daniel Fabikovic and a kill from fourth-year middle blocker Nicodemus Meyer, forcing the Hawks to take a timeout down 9-4.

The Ramblers maintained momentum with kills from Van Buren and Meyer. On the other side, the Hawks continued to suffer unenforced errors, barely pushing through with kills by Novakovic and Milosavljevic to make it 13-6.

Fabikovic tallied his first two kills of the match, followed by a Van Buren kill. Milosavljevic countered with a kill for the Hawks, but an ace from second-year opposite Lukas Anderson put the Ramblers up 17-9.

Errors by both teams preceded kills from Van Buren and Sosa. A block from

Van Buren and Meyer was followed by a Read kill, and Quincy responded with a kill by Novakovic.

Despite the Hawks securing two kills from Milosavljevic and Sosa, Van Buren grabbed a kill and an ace before third-year setter Ryan McElligott concluded the set at 25-16 with a kill.

The Ramblers started off the second set on a 3-0 run off a Van Buren ace and Quincy errors. Second-year outside Barnabas Fenyvesi and Milosavljevic tallied a block for the Hawks, but kills from Van Buren and Read put the Ramblers up 5-1.

A Sosa block was negated by a kill from first-year middle blocker Will Hatch. Quincy kills by Sosa and Fenyvesi combatted kills from Hatch, Fabikovic and Van Buren, before another kill from Fenyvesi and additional errors by both sides made it 10-7.

Hatch and Read grabbed kills for the Ramblers while the Hawks responded with a block from Milosavljevic. A kill from Van Buren and a block by Hatch prompted a Quincy timeout down 14-8.

Sosa gained momentum — tallying two kills — but the Ramblers hit back with a kill from Fabikovic and a McElligott block. The Hawks grabbed two kills by first-year middle blocker Tomas Badan and Fenyvesi, but errors and a Van Buren kill kept the Ramblers up 21-14.

An ace by Read and a kill from Fabikovic earned the Ramblers set point,

and they won the set 25-17 after a Hawks error.

Van Buren started off the third set with a kill, followed by a responding kill from Milosavljevic. The Hawks extended their lead to 4-2 after Novakovic secured a kill off an overpass and Milosavljevic earned another kill.

After errors by both sides, Meyer and Baden each tabbed a block, with a kill from Sosa prompting a Rambler timeout down 8-4.

Sosa and Van Buren traded kills, and the Ramblers scored three consecutive points off a Read kill, McElligott block and Van Buren ace to tie it at 10.

A kill from Sosa was countered by the Ramblers with back-to-back kills by Fabikovic and a kill from Meyer. The Hawks added a Sosa block and a kill from Novakovic before Van Buren captured a kill for the Ramblers, making it 15 apiece.

Novakovic, Milosavljevic and Fenyvesi secured kills for the Hawks, giving them momentum despite a kill from Fabikovic. Down 20-18, the Ramblers were forced to use a timeout.

Fenyvesi tallied two consecutive aces. Van Buren and Fabikovic each answered with a kill, but after a kill from Badan and a Loyola service error, the Hawks snatched set three 25-21.

Novakovic, Sosa and Milosavljevic started off the fourth set, grabbing three kills before a dump from McElligott, followed by Hawk attack errors,

tied the set at five.

McElligott added an ace, which Fenyvesi limited with a kill for the Hawks. Read gained a kill and Meyer secured a block to put the Ramblers up 9-6.

Sosa and Baden added kills and the Ramblers answered with kills by Van Buren, Read and Hatch. Back-to-back blocks from Hatch, Read and McElligott made it 15-10, before kills from Van Buren and Fabikovic forced the Hawks to take a timeout.

Fabikovic grabbed two more kills and Van Buren added one. Following errors on both sides, Fenyvesi and Badan added kills for the Hawks. Meyer and Read responded with a kill each to secure a 23-15 lead.

Hatch and Van Buren recorded a block after a Fenyvesi kill, giving the Ramblers match point. Fabikovic closed the set at 25-19 with a kill.

Head coach Shane Davis said Meyer's leadership to rally the team after they lost the third set was crucial to taking the win.

"It was set three and there was some complacency on our end, and Quincy was doing a great job and playing with confidence," Davis said. "[Meyer] was our voice in set four and made some plays for us and just demanded more out of his teammates, and that was the turnaround for us."

Molly Hanley is a Staff Writer for The Loyola Phoenix.



MEGAN DUNN / THE PHOENIX
Daniel Fabikovic made 13 kills, six digs and recorded an assist Saturday night.

Softball head coach Alicia Abbott reached 100 career wins against St. John's

PAGE 13

Kira Chivers is fundraising for Alzheimer's awareness after a family diagnosis

PAGE 14

Sitori Tanin leaves her mark on the Loyola women's basketball team

PAGE 14

Preview the Atlantic 10 women's basketball conference tournament.

PAGE 15