Mark Your Calendars!

Featured Campus Events:

**Community Holiday Party**
Please join President Michael J. Garanzini, S.J., staff and faculty of Loyola University Chicago to celebrate the holidays in a tradition of music, art, charity and community. Historically this occasion is an unforgettable evening for the Loyola community to come together with our neighbors, community partners and local organizations, not only to raise a glass in cheers but to also gather vital food and canned goods to support area food pantries. The theme of this year’s party will adhere to Loyola University’s commitment to sustainability. The party will include locally sourced, eco-friendly catering, reusable...
dishes and flatware, as well as ample recycling and composting receptacles.

Wednesday,
December 19, 5:30-8:30pm
Mundelein Auditorium,
LSC

Please join the Loyola community for a Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration: Rebuilding the Dream featuring keynote speaker Van Jones! A globally-recognized pioneer in human rights and the clean energy economy, Van is one of America's leading champions of smart solutions to create pathways out of poverty and rebuild America's middle class.

Wednesday, January 23
Keynote
Luncheon: 12 - 1:30pm in Kasbeer Hall, Water Tower Campus
Keynote Speech and Q&A: 5-7pm in Mullady Theater, Lake Shore Campus
Book Signing: 7-8pm

On November 15, 2012 the Chicago Wilderness (CW) Alliance’s member organizations plus students, educators, volunteers, community partners and others gathered to learn about the region’s conservation projects and programs. The biennial Congress allows the exchange of ideas and collaboration which has proven to inspire the work that is and has been taking place to conserve the region’s biodiversity. The alliance is committed to increasing public awareness of the vital role in which biodiversity plays in sustaining our life, its work in shaping our region and that CW is a national and international leader in conservation collaboration.

There was a strong Loyola representation making great connections: Loyola students networking with professionals and attending presentations; Reuben Keller, a faculty member from the Environmental Science Department facilitated a panel and discussion regarding the Chicago River; and Research Associate Shane Lishawa and former Loyola researcher Beth Lawrence presented one of CUERP's projects researching the potential of invasive plant species as biomass for energy. Additionally, Loyola has been a long supporter of CW with Gina Lettiere as a Congress Planning Committee member for several years and Aaron Durnbaugh as Vice Chair of their Executive Council.

At Congress, the sessions covered projects related to key initiatives that protect, restore and connect our region’s land, waters and wildlife so they remain healthy and continue to contribute to a quality of life rich in beauty. Presentations on Leave No Child Inside, Greening Infrastructure, Restoring Nature, Climate Action and Research were well attended and at the end of the day, participants congregated for a social gathering to further the excitement and energy of the alliance.

A special element to this year's Congress, the alliance coordinated a program in which students, both college and high school, were connected with professionals to provide networking and mentoring opportunities. As stewards of this amazing region, the alliance members' recognize the need to ensure that the conservation collaboration continues long into the future.
Featured Community Events:
Chicago Wilderness
Congress's 2013 Leave No Child Inside Conference
This event provides educators, professionals, and students to network and share lessons learned in the regional effort to connect children with nature. Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Andrea Faber Taylor.

Saturday, January 12,
9:00am - 3:30pm
Triton College, River Grove, IL

To learn more about Chicago Wilderness, check out their website and especially explore the "What You Can Do" tab.

Fresh, Organic Thanksgiving Turkeys from the LUREC Farm

Turkey is an integral part of most Thanksgiving dinners, and this year, instead of picking up a processed Butterball turkey pumped full of hormones and raised in inhumane conditions, Loyola faculty and staff had the opportunity to purchase healthy, happy turkeys straight from the LUREC farm!

The Loyola Student Farm, located on the Loyola University Retreat and Ecology Campus (LUREC), is a student-run and informed business that sells vegetables and fruits at the Loyola Farmer's Market. This year, the farm was able to provide a limited number of organic, free range, and humanely processed white-breasted turkeys for Thanksgiving! The turkeys ranged from 10-25 lbs in size.

Raising turkeys in humane conditions has a significant impact on the turkey's taste and nutritional value. Research has shown that Grass-fed turkey raised under organic conditions convey the most health benefits. Grass-fed turkeys offer higher nutrition and are superior to birds given antibiotics or raised without access to natural pasture. Turkeys that are healthy prior to slaughter also contain more nutrients because they are better able to metabolize them into the turkey meat.

A traditional, frozen turkey, on the other hand, may be super-sized because it is chemically and genetically modified, which may make the turkey drier and less tender. Many traditional turkeys are raised in crowded conditions inside and under heat lamps. They are usually feed corn-based mash that may be laced with hormones or antibiotics. Many turkeys become overweight, which can contribute to broken bones, or cause the turkey to die from a heart attack.

The turkey sale allowed Loyola staff and faculty to support our local student farm, and serve their families a delicious, fresh turkey dinner! Thanks to all of our student farmers.

Green Gift-Giving Guide
As you carefully select holiday gifts for your loved ones, don't forget the power of your consumer voice and the impact of consumption on our environment. Here are some guidelines and tips to reduce waste and purchase lovely, sustainable gifts your friends and family are sure to enjoy!

1. Purchase gifts made from sustainable materials - Sustainable materials are made from renewable sources that can be produced at high volumes without adversely affecting the environment or critical ecologies. Some great examples are: recycled glass (and other recycled materials), linen, and bamboo. You can find a wide variety of gifts...
made from items like these! Check out Uncommon Goods for a great recycled gift selection. These days, you can even purchase high quality clothing made of bamboo!

2. **Shop Locally** - Think twice before ordering gifts online and shop your local stores instead. Shopping local supports your own community's economy (especially if you shop local and independently owned!) It will also reduce your carbon footprint since gifts don't have to be shipped from a warehouse to your door.

3. **Look for locally-made items** - Chicago and its surrounding areas have a lot of natural resources to offer, which means many products can easily be made locally in our region. Check out cool new gadgets from Loggerhead Tools, based in Palos Park, IL! We also have Field Notes notebooks, Ork Posters, Vosges Chocolate, and OrigAudio products, all made right here in Chicago! Or, stop by one of

who helped to raise the turkeys in humane conditions, and especially to Farm Manager Alex Tuchman for making the sale possible and delivering the turkeys to the Lake Shore Campus for pick-up!

### Unified Student Government Association Sponsors Zero Waste Game

This year, the Unified Student Government Association (USGA) partnered with Loyola Athletics for Loyola's first ever Zero Waste Athletic event. The "Zero Waste Game" took place on Saturday, December 1st in Gentile Arena when Loyola's Men's Basketball Ramblers faced off against Furman.

Spearheaded by the USGA's Chief Sustainability Officer, Alexandra Vecchio, with consultation from the Office of Sustainability, USGA and Loyola Athletics set out to raise awareness about waste reduction and conservation of resources by incorporating sustainability initiatives into this athletic event.

To promote the event and raise awareness, free Zero Waste game t-shirts in a bright shade of green were given out at the door. Students also received complimentary reusable water bottles, to promote access to water as a human right and emphasize the reduction of harmful waste, like plastic water bottles that usually end up in a landfill.

USGA took measures to eliminate waste by setting up recycling and composting stations throughout the arena. USGA students monitored these stations to educate students about what can be recycled and composted, and ensure that items were thrown into the proper bins. USGA
Chicago's many Farmer's Markets and give the gift of local, organic food, coffee, or tea! These items can be given in recyclable or reusable containers, and since they'll be consumed, there's no waste!

4. Donate to a good cause in the recipient's name - There are many great sustainability causes that could use your donations! Use your consumer voice and put your money toward a good cause, while also honoring the gift recipient. Many organizations, like Oxfam and World Vision, offer gift-giving options to fit every price range, and come with a certificate or card to present to the gift recipient. Instead of buying your loved one another material item, why not give the gift of a goat that can provide fertilizer and food for a family (for $50) or seeds, tools, and training in Africa for as little as $30? You can also help preserve America's wilderness by sponsoring a wild place through the Sierra Club!

Gift recipients will receive a commemoration package that varies based on your level of sponsorship. Not only will these gifts transform a community, they are waste-free and will literally keep on giving!

5. Cut down on wrapping paper - Instead of purchasing rolls of expensive and wasteful wrapping paper, try recycling items to wrap your gifts. Newspaper and and baskets are great ways to give your gift a pretty presentation without

also worked with the administrators and employees of the concession stand so that all serving ware used at the Zero Waste Game would be compostable.

The Zero Waste Game was a first in Loyola's history, serving as a pilot that sets the stage as a model for more Zero Waste Loyola events.

Vote to Bring Bikeshare Locations to Loyola's Campus!

The Chicago Department of Transportation is accepting input from the local community to help plan Chicago's Bike Share program!

Bike share will be a new way to get around Chicago. It is an affordable, self-service personal transit system that allows bikes to be picked up from one location and ridden to any other location in the system. Commuters, residents, and tourists don't need to own a bike to make bicycling a part of their trip!

Already successful in cities around the world, bike share in Chicago will make it easier for everyone to get around. Please tell the Chicago Department of Transportation that you'd like to see bike share stations located on Loyola's campuses, and why you'd use them. Find Loyola's location on the map, then click "Add location", and tell them why it's a Loyola is a great bike share location. Some examples are: we have a large student community that could use these bikes to commute to classes, it would increase sustainability on our campus by providing more alternative transportation options, Loyola's multiple campuses are conveniently located so students, faculty, staff, and community members alike could make use of the bike share program! Click "Submit location" when you're done.

Click here to vote now!

Sustainability Planning Input Gathering Phase Completed
wasting trees! These can then be reused or recycled afterwards, instead of ending up in a trash bin. You can also use reusable bags as gift bags - it’s two gifts in one!

Have a Happy and Sustainable Holiday Season!

Check out our Events Calendar for more event listings and registration!

After six months, over 40 meetings and presentations, more than 2,200 surveys and over 4,800 ideas and suggestions, the input gathering process has ended and the Office of Sustainability is busy organizing the results. We will be analyzing the data and incorporating it into a Sustainability and Climate Plan which will be available for review in early 2013. Thanks to everyone that provided your ideas and creativity and please stay tuned!

Stay Connected:
Like us on Facebook!
Follow us on Twitter!

Help us spread the word by forwarding this email to your friends!

Join Our Mailing List!

Student Section
by Gabrielle Baldassari
Student Environmental Alliance member and Sustainability Steward

Welcome Loyola students to the section of this newsletter that is just for you! Read here to learn about student-led sustainability initiatives on campus, important events, and what the student voice is saying around the topic of sustainability at Loyola.

Student Sustainability Projects
With the first semester of this school year coming to a close, a few student projects regarding sustainability are reaching points of notable progress. Students are working on these projects in
classes, with student organizations, and even through their own personal initiative.

Loyola's Student Environmental Alliance has delegated a committee to work on raising $2,600 to donate and install a water well in an impoverished area in Africa. Chair of the committee, sophomore Kelly Hof, aims to continue the efforts of reducing social injustices surrounding water since last year's campus wide ban of water bottles. "Clean, safe, obtainable drinking water is a basic human right," argued Hof, commenting on behalf of the committee. The group plans to gain contributions for the fund through sales of recycled t-shirt scarves on November 30th in CFSU, the 50/50 raffle that is part of the Zero Waste Game on December 1st, and by asking friends and family to donate.

Sustainability issues surrounding water are not the only efforts taking place here at Loyola. What first started out as a class project has now turned into a committed effort to reduce the use of plastic bags on campus. At their current stage, the plastic bag committee, formed in Tania Shusler's "Sustainability" class, has succeeded in getting a ten-cent reduction per reusable bag used at Southside Market in order to motivate students to bring their own bags. Ideally, the group would like to see only reused plastic bags or reusable bags in school stores so that Loyola would not be adding to any plastic bag waste. This could help decrease Loyola's eco-footprint and would bring us one step further on the track to having a sustainable campus. Students should remember to bring their reusable bags when shopping in Southside Market to save some money and to lead sustainable day-to-day lives.

Another student project capable of making a huge mark on Loyola is just starting to take off. The Green Initiative Fund is a plan to add a $3.50 per semester fee to each student's tuition. The money pooled from this fund would go towards supporting sustainable student projects that would require or benefit from funding. Students would be able to apply for money from this fund to support their projects. The money raised from the fund not used for student projects would go towards the Office of Sustainability for larger projects, such as purchasing renewable energy for Loyola. The TGIF committee of the Student Environmental Alliance is currently working on outreach for student support through advocacy and education. Hopefully, enough support for the initiative will be gained so that a referendum vote taking place in the spring of 2013 will pass with a majority approving to add the fund to tuition for the 2013/14 school year.

If there is enough support for The Green Initiative Fund to make this idea a reality, Loyola would be sure to maintain its spot as the most sustainable Jesuit University for years to come, and would join the ranks of many other colleges and universities that have similar funds, including the University of Illinois at Chicago, Notre Dame, and UC Berkley. This fund could open up the doors for students to take on larger projects than are currently possible without monetary support; however, the committee is facing some resistance. Junior Jared Brocklehurst explained that even though TGIF is facing challenges, the students on the committee have a lot of hope for the future of the fund: "It's difficult for such an urban school to really progress rapidly in the way of sustainability, but with enough student support, we are absolutely capable of making a change in Loyola, Chicago, and the world."
Loyola University Chicago strives to create a more sustainable university community. Doing this requires the collaboration, cooperation and creativity of every department and office and of all students, faculty and staff. Together we're building awareness, taking action and transforming society into one that will lead us sustainably down the path of ecological and social responsibility.