CAS dean search underway

Current College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) dean Frank Fennell, PhD, announced his intentions to step down as dean when his term ends in June 2012. A search committee tasked with locating the next CAS dean has been formed and is being chaired by Don Heider, PhD, dean of the School of Communication.

Crèches return to LUMA

The holiday season is fast approaching, and that means the return of the always popular Art and Faith of the Crèche exhibition at the Loyola University Museum of Art. The collection comprises of more than 500 nativity scenes from 100 different countries and cultures across the world. This year the exhibition, which will run from November 19 through January 15, 2012, will feature 50 new pieces never seen before in the collection.

Retention, total enrollment rise

Final enrollment numbers for fall 2011 are in, and here is the story they tell: new students (first-year, transfer, and graduate) are liking what Loyola has to offer and, once here, they are starting to stick around at a higher rate.

For the last several years, Father Garanzini has addressed a number of topics at the State of the University address, including the importance of retaining our students. This year, through the work of a number of offices, most notably the Office of First-Year Experience, the University reports that its retention rate has risen to 87 percent, up from 85 percent just a year ago.

"Retaining students that our admission folks work so hard to recruit is a top priority," says Bridget Wesley, director, Office of First-Year Experience. "A number of things led to the increase—everything from improving the academic advising and tutoring experience to offering a cohesive first-year retreat program to lowering the number of required graduation credits and getting more full time, tenured faculty members in front of first-year students."

Wesley also notes the importance of growing the learning communities on campus, making sure the University’s Cristo Rey Scholars have access to the tools they need, building on the interdisciplinary honors program, expanding peer mentor programs, investing in the campus, and so many other initiatives that are integral in the University’s pursuit to offer a first-class, transformative student experience.

"This remains a difficult economic time with more and more families faced with financial uncertainty and, likewise, it becomes an even greater challenge each year to recruit talented students to Loyola," says Lori Greene, director of undergraduate admission. "That said, our admission staff has done an incredible job getting prospective students on campus, and once they’re here, the faculty, staff, and students do a great job of making Loyola feel like home. Overall, we’re very excited about the makeup of the Class of 2015."

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Loyola offers scholarships, grants, loans, work-study, and other alternative financing programs.

2011 FRESHMAN CLASS AVERAGE AWARD: $23,400
2011 TRANSFER CLASS AVERAGE AWARD: $22,400
For more than 10 years, Loyola’s Robert G. Morrison, PhD, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology and a member of the Neuroscience Institute at the Stritch School of Medicine, has studied human memory and reasoning. One significant branch of his research combines behavioral and neuroimaging methods to study neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer’s disease.

In July 2011, Dr. Morrison received a grant from the American Federation for Aging Research and Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation that will enable him and other collaborators to develop behavioral and neuroimaging methods to predict which individuals diagnosed with Mild Cognitive Impairment are likely to go on and be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease. When developed, these methods will allow individuals to be targeted with earlier pharmacological and behavioral interventions to hopefully delay or offset the effects of the dementia associated with Alzheimer’s disease.

In September, the Office of the President and Human Resources teamed up to host Partners in Mission, an intricate session for newly hired employees that will become a tradition at the start of each semester. This half-day workshop explains institutional values, the Jesuit community, and ways to connect mission with daily work.

Also as September was the launch of the Leadership Exchange, a grassroots group made up of department head-level faculty and staff. The program serves as a forum for University leadership to gather for networking, information sharing, professional development, and socializing.

The 2011 Illinois Family Business of the Year Award Recipients Include:
- Small Family Business of the Year - Richards Graphic Communications Inc.
- Medium Family Business of the Year - Ed Minix Inc.
- Large Family Business of the Year - Kiln Inc.
- Community Service Award - Crescent Electric Supply Co.
- Century Award - Gonnella Baking Co.

This year’s awards drew nearly 200 nominations in five categories. “The Illinois Family Business of the Year Awards program gives us the opportunity to celebrate the incredible contributions of family business to our communities and our economy,” says Andrew Keyt, executive director of the Loyola Family Business Center. “This center is pleased to recognize these dedicated families and their businesses.”

Open enrollment for benefits-eligible faculty and staff is back and will run through November 23. This year, University employees will notice a few significant changes in their health plan, including new deductible amounts and a special focus on saving money on maintenance prescriptions through the mail order prescription plan.

Events

11.13 THE MEANING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE IN CATHOLIC THOUGHT
4 p.m. - Corby Law Center, Room 201
Join Robert John Araujo, S.J. and University professor John Courtney Murray, S.J. as they use the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution and key elements of vernacular Catholic social thought to define the term “social justice.”

11.18 THIS I BELIEVE
Noon - Ojero/Simpson Living Learning Center Multipurpose Room
Inspired by the book, This I Believe, this program will bring faculty, staff, and students together to discuss shared values, beliefs, and motivations.

BOOK NOOK
Understanding the human experience

In May 2011, Anna Marie Vigen, PhD, professor of Christian social ethics at Loyola and Christian Scharen, PhD, assistant professor of worship and theology at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, published Ethnography as Christian Theology and Ethics. The book introduces and explores the use of ethnography, a qualitative method and responds to potential concerns of social scientists and Christian theologians who, for various reasons, may raise an eyebrow at this approach. The book provides specific examples of Christian ethics and theologians using ethnography in their work, and it makes the case that this method is both a valid and valuable way of understanding theology and ethics.

www.continuumbooks.com

New faculty and staff attending Partners in Mission won prizes for correctly explaining the meaning behind the various elements of the University’s shield.

Students rally around LG Wolf at Midnight Madness. Photo by Heather Stone

Madness headlines homecoming

Homecoming weekend was held October 14-16, and welcomed both alumni and parents to campus to engage in a weekend of Ramblers pride with faculty, staff, and students. The weekend kicked off Friday night with free food, music, and giveaways in the Norris Center and Midnight Madness, the official start of basketball season. Saturday was filled with events scattered throughout both campuses, as several graduate schools hosted brunches, about 120 homecoming participants attended the men’s soccer game at Homey Field. The final day of Homecoming served as a day of reflection and relaxation. Participants attended the Homecoming Mass in Madonna della Strada Chapel and spent time sightseeing and strolling through campus before saying goodbye to friends, families, and their beloved alma mater.

SCHOOL OF LAW
PROLAW program debuts

Twenty-five legal professionals from around the world are spending the year studying at the John Felice Rome Center in Italy as part of PROLAW™, the newly launched LL.M in Rule of Law for Developing the Year studying at the John

Top Illinois family businesses honored

The Loyola University Chicago Family Business Center recently announced the winners of the 18th annual Illinois Family Business of the Year Awards. This year’s program recognizes exceptional Illinois-based family businesses that demonstrate a strong commitment to business development, family, and the greater Illinois community. An awards gala (open to the public) honoring the winners and finalists, as well as the University’s President, will be held on Tuesday, November 29, at 6:30 p.m., at The Four Seasons Hotel Chicago.

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Benefits open enrollment

NOV. 7-23
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LU.EDU/hr

CUNEO MANSION AND GARDENS

11.28-11.12 HOLIDAY LIGHT SHOW
Cuneo Mansion and Gardens Drive through the beautiful Cuneo estate and enjoy brightly lit holiday figures of animals, elves, and more, from 4 to 9 p.m. The drive-through show is open nightly from 4 to 9 p.m. and admission is $10 on the week- ends and $5 on the weekdays.

www.cuneomansion.org

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The calendar has finally flipped to November and the men’s and women’s basketball teams are ready for a fresh start. The 2011–12 season brings about many new changes to the Loyola program, including new faces and a redesigned arena.

First-year men’s basketball coach Porter Moser will rely on seniors Ben Averkamp, Jordan Hicks, and Walt Gibler to guide a young team that will face the likes of the University of Illinois, Kansas State, Butler, DePaul, and more.

On the women’s side, junior Monica Albano, who ranked fifth in the Horizon League last year with 16.9 ppg, leads a seasoned team looking to excel on experience under head coach Eric Simpson. The schedule features 14 home games, highlighted by a visit from Northwestern, as well as a trip to Seattle for a tournament that features two other Jesuit schools—Seattle and San Francisco.

Another major change this year is the newly designed and named Gentile Arena, which has undergone a gut rehab and will debut on November 26 when the men battle Fordham. Complete with new stadium seating, an enhanced sound system, and a brand new floor, Gentile Arena has been transformed into a true sports arena that should provide the Ramblers with a true homecourt-advantage.

Although debuting on November 26, the building will be officially christened when city-foe DePaul visits Rogers Park on December 7.

SEASON SCHEDULES AND TICKETS
» LUC.edu/athletics

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