



## First Lay President Elected at Loyola University Chicago

Jo Ann Rooney, JD, LLM, EdD, has been elected Loyola University Chicago's 24th president and its first lay leader. A lifelong Catholic who has taught religious education, Dr. Rooney previously served as the president of both Spalding University in Louisville, Ky., and Mount Ida College in Newton, Mass. She also spent more than 12 years in the classroom, teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

After only months at Mount Ida, Dr. Rooney was called by the Obama Administration to serve her country as principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness in the U.S. Department of Defense. In 2012, former Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta awarded Dr. Rooney the Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service.

"I have been blessed throughout my career with amazing experiences that have shaped and influenced me in numerous ways, but my passion is, and has always been, education," said Dr. Rooney. "Education is life changing. Today, higher education is at a crossroads, and I am fully committed to making decisions that will allow us to thrive as an institution and community leader. I was struck by the dedication and commitment exhibited by representatives of the faculty, students, staff, academic leadership, Jesuits, and board members. That commitment, and Loyola's strong mission, drew me here."

For more information, visit [www.LUC.edu/presidentialsearch](http://www.LUC.edu/presidentialsearch).



## Emmylou Harris to Play JRS Concerts for Refugees

Plans are underway for a series of concerts to raise awareness and funds for Jesuit Refugee Service's (JRS) Global Education Initiative. *Lampedusa: Concerts for Refugees* will feature Grammy-Award winners Emmylou Harris, Steve Earle, Patty Griffin, and Buddy Miller, as well as The Milk Carton Kids and special guests in an intimate singer-songwriter tour this fall.

"The better angels of our nature call upon us to act with compassion and not with fear in the face of so much suffering," said Harris, who recently returned from a trip with JRS to meet refugees in Ethiopia.

The tour will stop in 11 cities, including an October 12 concert at the Pabst Theater in Milwaukee.

An Italian island, Lampedusa is a common destination for refugees traveling to Europe from Africa. On his first official papal trip outside Rome in 2013, Pope Francis visited Lampedusa after seven migrants traveling toward the island in a Tunisian fishing boat drowned.

The Global Education Initiative is part of Pope Francis' call to JRS to double the number of refugees served in educational programs by 2020.

"An education is the only thing a refugee can receive that cannot be taken away," said Jesuit Fr. Thomas H. Smolich, international director of JRS.

To learn more about *Lampedusa: Concerts for Refugees* or to support JRS, visit [www.jrsusa.org](http://www.jrsusa.org).



Courtesy of The Cook Political Report

## John Carroll University Hosts Series on Presidential Politics

John Carroll University and other Cleveland area educational institutions partnered to present *Politically Speaking*, a series of forums that discussed the upcoming general election and Ohio's storied role in choosing the next U.S. president. Nationally-recognized political journalists and educators served as keynote speakers for four events, which were all held on local college campuses.

In March, John Carroll hosted "The Presidential Primary Process." Other sessions explored the importance of polling and the economic impacts of national political conventions. In addition to John Carroll, *Politically Speaking* was sponsored by Baldwin Wallace University, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland State University, Cuyahoga Community College, Kent State University, and The University of Akron.

Featured speakers and panelists included Amy Walter, national editor of *The Cook Political Report* and a panelist on NBC's *Meet the Press*; and Jo Ann Davidson, former speaker of the Ohio House of Representatives.

"Ever since the Republican National Committee chose Cleveland as the convention city, a spotlight has been shining on the city and its institutions," said Dora Pruce, assistant vice president for university advancement and director of government and community relations at John Carroll. "*Politically Speaking* was a meaningful way for area colleges and universities to get involved, engage the community, and participate in the excitement of the convention coming to Cleveland."