



Honors Magazine

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1870

WINTER
2025
ISSUE

01 From the Director's Desk

Dear Honors Community:

From the moment I accepted the position of Director of the Honors Program back in 2020, I've been trying to get our program its own logo. This winter, it finally happened! Meet Honoré, LU Rambler's erudite cousin. And look for this logo to appear in our offices and on merchandise this spring.

The cover of this issue of the magazine celebrates our own Sister Jean, who turned 105 in 2024. If you have not already done so, take advantage of her student office hours to say hello.

I hope the information in this issue is useful to students and faculty. And remember: let us know what you're up to! You might just appear in future issues of the magazine!

Prof. Strain



Born Dolores Bertha Schmidt in 1919, Sister Jean turned 105 in 2024. She joined the Mundelein College community in 1961. Learn more about [Sister Jean's life and work](#), including her legacy at Loyola University Chicago.



The new program logo features our new mascot, LU Rambler's cousin, Honoré!

Students, Alumni, Faculty: Contribute to the Honors Magazine

To contribute news ideas, stories, features, photos, or original artwork to the Honors Magazine, please contact Professor Strain by email: vstrain@luc.edu

02 Memories



03 Memories



04 Student Groups

Honors Student Government

MEET YOUR YEAR REPS!

Noman's statement for Freshmen:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OoLQ1eWBE9aK1uY6iO-SLnks500jqUWf/view?usp=sharing>

Diedrick's statement for Sophomores:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FCqN3ZkMitWX5s7ye3lbyu7hi5V8tvsvx/view?usp=sharing>

Karoline's statement for Upperclassmen (Juniors & Seniors):

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1sKfEssu8BsFdrjpUiom4tAD_6rhCud8l/view?usp=sharing



HONORS STUDENT GOVERNMENT BINGO NIGHT



7pm
Francis Hall
Lobby

4
FEBRUARY

Snacks & drinks
will be provided!
Prizes available!

05 Student Groups

Honors BIPOC Coalition @honorsbipoc



At our monthly meetings this Fall semester, we decorated totes, made jewelry, and enjoyed some food and snacks while discussing how the semester has been going so far and sharing our unique experiences in the program!

At the HBC Gala, we welcomed professors and students to hear our mission and join us in a discussion about the Honors program, Loyola, current events, and how advocacy work is critical in all spheres.

Future Events:

In the Spring semester, we hope to have our Student Banquet, a Pop Culture Trivia Night, and one of our traditional Speaker Events! We will have more details closer to the events, so please follow us @honorsbipoc on Instagram for updates!

MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
AND ÉDITIONS MÉMOIRE D'ENCRIER
PRESENT

A CONVERSATION AND BOOK SIGNING WITH

JEAN-CHRISTOPHE FOLLY



A Franco-Togolese actor, Jean-Christophe Folly works in both theater and film. He has played roles in a number of well-known films, including *35 rhums* (2009), *Vincent doit mourir* (2023) and *Sans filtre* (2022). His theater credits include *Bérénice* (2024/2025), *Sensuelle* (2022/2023) and *La nuit avant les forêts* (2021/2023). In 2017, he founded the Chajar & Chams company. *Benoît Blues* is his first novel. Jean-Christophe Folly lives between Paris and Dijon.

4 P.M. FEBRUARY 13TH, 2025
MUNDELEIN, PALM COURT
IN FRENCH AND ENGLISH



Benoît Blues is the story of two friends, one Black and one White, who were the best of buddies. The scene is the motley Paris of the 1980s. The friends grow into adults, start careers, have children, live a bourgeois life and party, while social divisions and tensions intrude on the cocoon they've created around themselves. After Benoît's suicide, his best friend Geoffrey inherits his diary. We then hear Benoît's voice, shattering everything Geoffrey thought he knew about their friendship, their identity, their youth. Through the eyes of Geoffrey, Edith, the woman he loves, Benoît and a whole constellation of characters as disarming as they are imperfect, the young people who were known at the time as "black-blanc-beur" express themselves freely. A youth inventing its own destiny, against a backdrop of friendship, love and music. And above all, alcohol.

06 Student Groups

New Student Group



Students Demand Action LUC is a new RSO currently in the application process at Loyola. Students Demand Action at the national level is a grassroots movement of America's youth fighting for public safety measures to protect people from gun violence. As a chapter of this national organization, Students Demand Action LUC plans to advocate for common-sense gun safety laws, raise awareness and support of Gun Sense Candidates at local, state, and national levels, and educate our peers

and communities on gun safety issues, solutions, and policies. Our organization advocates for every person to be able to live a life free from fear of gun violence.

Join us and get involved!

Join our email list for all SDA LUC updates, you can find our email list in our Instagram bio.

Stay in touch with us through our Instagram @sdaluc, send us an email studentsdemandactionluc@gmail.com

Executive Board:

Fiona Mazeikis (Honors Student), Lily Smith (Honors Student), Karoline Chidester (Honors Student), Carolyn Coyle (Honors Student), Casey O'Connell (Honors Student), Maya Taha, Meaghan Quirk

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Chris Whidden (Honors Program)

Loyola's Political Discourse Club



The Political Discourse Club was founded in 2022 by students who saw a need for cooperative conversations about political topics in a world of polarizing issues. Through the launch of the club, members have created a specific focus on bringing together Loyola students of different political ideologies and facilitating civil discussions from local to global political issues.

Political Discourse Club is a political advocacy student organization that focuses on bringing together Loyola students of diverse political ideologies while facilitating civil discussions pertaining to local, nationwide, and global political issues.

As our country battles hyper-partisanship, increasing political apathy, and bitter political discourse that usually takes place on social media instead of face to face, Loyola's PDC seeks to give students a healthy environment to discuss the issues they care deeply about. We hold monthly meetings centered around various political topics in the hopes of bringing thoughtful civil discourse and empathy to our campus. Our aim as an organization is to change the way students discuss politics, in hopes of bettering the way our generation as a whole talks about the most contentious issues of our time.

Honors Student Members of the Executive Board:

Alex de Foy, Colin Harrison, Durshun Shah, Hanna Wilhite, and Natalia Yarbrough (in alphabetical order)

GODDESS *Beyond* BOUNDARIES

.....
Worshipping the Eternal Mother at a
North American Hindu Temple



TRACY PINTCHMAN

***Goddess Beyond Boundaries, Worshipping the Eternal Mother at a North American Hindu Temple.* New York: Oxford University Press, 2024, by Dr. Tracy Pintchman, Professor of Religious Studies, Director of the Global Studies Program, and Instructor for HONR 209 Encountering Asia.**

The Parashakthi Temple in Pontiac, Michigan, serves as a site of worship for the Hindu goddess Karumariamman, whose origins are in South India. In her American home, Karumariamman has assumed the status of Great Goddess, a tantric deity and wonder worker who communicates directly with devotees through dreams, visions, and miracles. Drawing on fifteen years of field work, Tracy Pintchman reveals how the Parashakthi Temple has become a site of theological and ritual innovation.

A unique spiritual community, the temple does not simply reproduce Indian goddess traditions, but instead reimagines Hinduism and the Hindu Goddess in the American religious, cultural, and natural landscape. The congregation's faith is grounded in a vision of the Goddess as a breaker of boundaries, including those of race, ethnicity, religion, geography, history, and nationality. Like her congregants, Pintchman suggests, the goddess is emblematic of the qualities of a new immigrant; she embraces the opportunities her new home affords her and refashions herself, but she does not forget her roots, keeping one foot planted in her Indian homeland and another planted firmly in her new land, the United States.

Pintchman considers larger issues concerning the creativity of immigrant Hindu communities and the ways in which diaspora contexts facilitate the production of new forms of Hinduism that are made possible by globalization and modern technology.



Honors Awards - It's Time to Apply!

LUC HONORS PROGRAM AWARDS

These award winners are selected by committees of Honors administrators, faculty members, and student volunteers. Most of the awards are announced at the Senior Celebration.

APPLICATION MATERIALS ARE DUE TO DR. HAMEL (NHAMEL@LUC.EDU) BY MARCH 30, 2025

SOCIAL JUSTICE

This service award will be given to a student at any year of study who has significantly promoted the cause of equality. Application requires (1) a letter of reference from an Honors faculty member or project supervisor, and (2) the student's own personal statement describing their motivation and the way that their work has been furthered by their studies.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

This award recognizes an exemplary Honors Student who has developed innovative projects that promote student engagement and model service for others. Nominate yourself or your peer.

GRADUATING SENIOR

This student's academic success over the course of the program and their contribution to the Honors community life will be considered.

You are Cordially Invited

The Honors Senior Celebration

Date: April 6, 2025

Time: 4:00-5:30pm

Location: Damen Den

RSVP by March 24

Every spring, the Honors Program recognizes the achievement of our graduating students with a special reception. It is an opportunity to gather as a class one last time and to raise a glass to your past and future selves. A fancy buffet will be served! People will make speeches! The Honors Program award winners will be announced! The Graduating Senior Award recipient will be asked to make remarks! And you can pick up your Honors graduation medallion!

TICKETS

Graduating seniors may reserve 1 free ticket to attend.

RSVP by March 24, 2025

There are only 100 student tickets available for this event.

<https://forms.office.com/r/Tw4iXgQvPE>

When you RSVP for the Senior Celebration, you'll also have the opportunity to share memories and photos of your time in the program. These will be incorporated into a presentation at the event.

Introducing...

The Honors Program Listserv

The Honors Program now has a listserv. This means that you will be receiving our announcements, updates, reminders, and other information from this email address:

honorsprogramlistserv@lists.luc.edu

If you are a current student in the Honors Program, you have already been added to the listserv.

Please make sure that you are receiving emails from this address, and that they have not been diverted into your junk mail folder.



Spring 2025 Drop-In Advising Days



FSYA and CAS honors advisors are pleased to offer drop-in advising in the Francis Hall lobby to help prepare for registration week or to provide general check-ins.

Current Freshmen or Sophomores

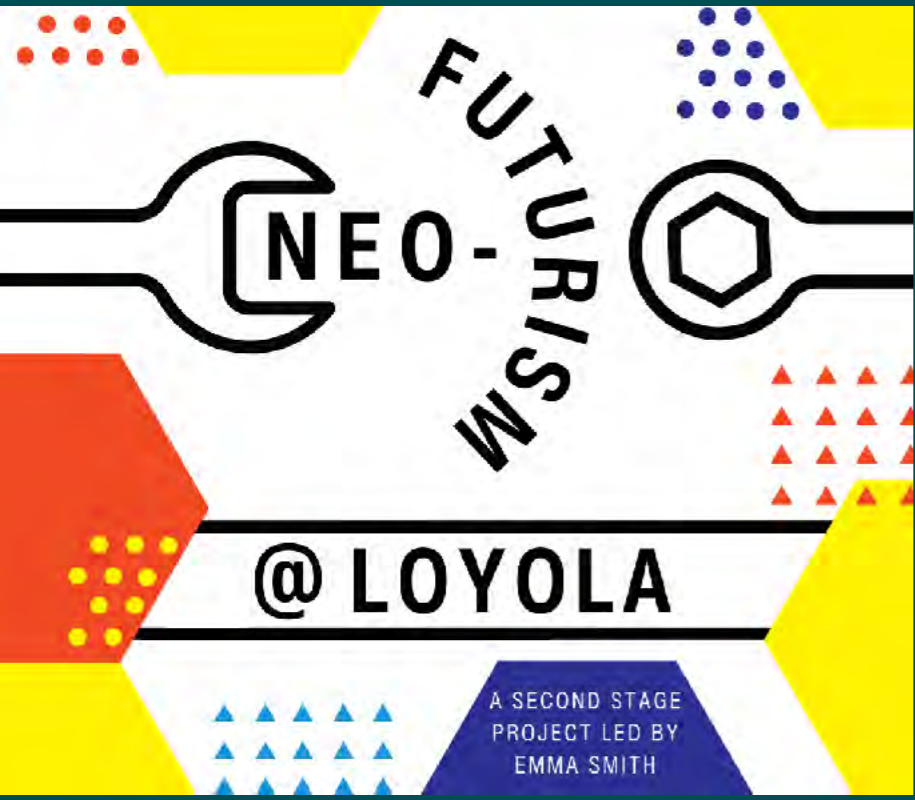
- Tuesday, February 25th (10AM - 3PM)
- Friday, April 4th (10AM - 3PM)

Current Sophomores

- Tuesday, March 25th (10AM - 3PM)

No Appointment Necessary!

TICKETS TO DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS
<https://luc.universitytickets.com/>



Performance Date: FEBRUARY 2, 2025



Performance Dates: FEBRUARY 22-23, 2025



Performance Dates: APRIL 5-6, 2025

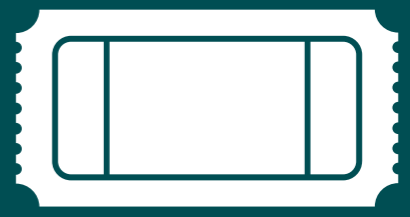


Performance Dates: FEBRUARY 13-23, 2025



Performance Dates: MARCH 27-APRIL 6, 2025

Many of our Honors students participate in visual art exhibitions, and music, theatre, and dance performances throughout the year.



GET YOUR TICKETS TO DEPARTMENT OF FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS EVENTS:
<https://luc.universitytickets.com/>



SPRING INTO ACTION

FEBRUARY

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- [MLK Day of Service 2025](#)
Join the Division of Student Development, in partnership with the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Community Service in Action, and HSC Ministry, in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through service.
- February 14th: Celebrate [Frederick Douglass!](#)
- [LUC Library Resources](#) on Black History Month
- African American Literature [Book Club](#)



MARCH

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



- [Loyola University Chicago Empowering Sisterhood \(LUCES\)](#)
LUCES is an intergenerational and intersectional community that centers undergraduate and graduate students, staff, faculty, and alumni of Loyola University Chicago to support the experiences of Womxn* and People of Color (W/POC) at a predominately White institution (PWI). Transfer students are eligible and encouraged to join the LUCES community. This space is open to all Ramblers.
- [The Gannon Center for Women and Leadership](#)
In collaboration with campus partners, the Gannon Center hosts a variety of programs and events to commemorate Women's History Month.
- [LUC Library Resources](#) on Women's History Month

APRIL 22

EARTH DAY



Loyola has been a leader in sustainability for years, and it recently was named the fourth greenest college campus in the country by the Sierra Club.

- Celebrate Earth Week with the School of Environmental Sustainability: April 21 - 25, 2025
- "Earth Week is an opportunity to reflect on sustainability achievements throughout the year and refresh our commitment to protecting the earth and its inhabitants."
- [Campus Sustainability Events](#)

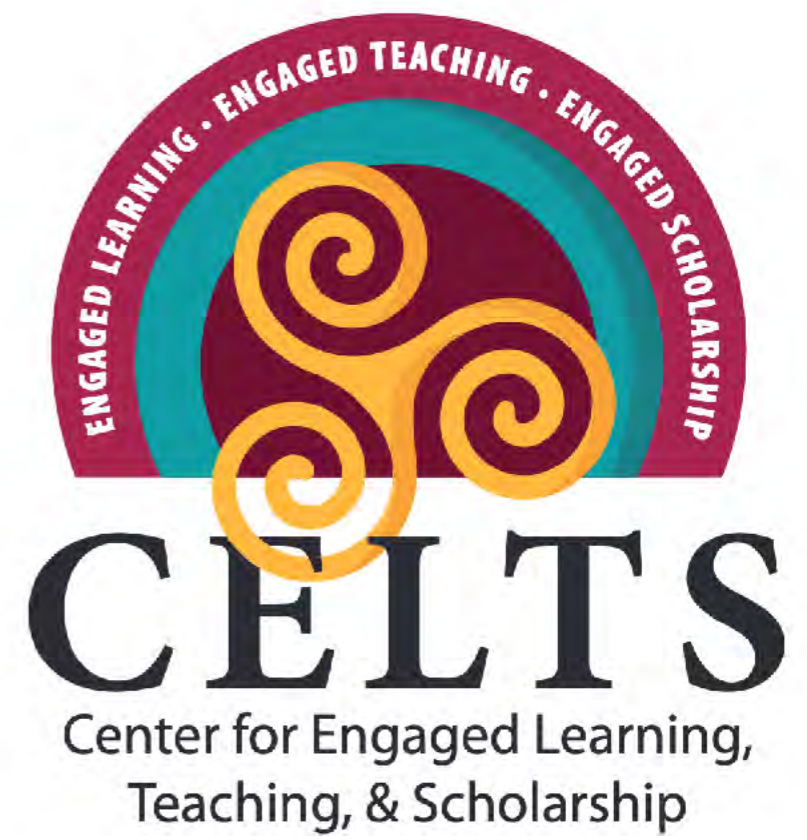
Honors Program “Leadership in Service” Certificate
Report your service to the Honors Program to qualify for our “Leadership in Service” certificate. Register here.

SPRING NON-PROFIT FAIR

The CELTS Spring Non-Profit Fair is Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2025 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm in the Damen Student Center Atrium.

We have over 40 non-profit community organizations registered to recruit Loyola students for service-learning opportunities, academic internship roles, and project-based / research experiences.

These opportunities support students’ engaged learning experiences, as well as connect students to potential community partner opportunities for the future.





SAVE *the* DATE

DOUGLASS DAY | FEB 14, 2025

Featuring the African American Perspectives Collection at the Library of Congress

DouglassDay.org

Loyola's Center for Textual Studies and Digital Humanities and The Newberry Library invite you to a birthday party for Frederick Douglass:

Simultaneously with volunteers around the world, we'll participate in a transcribe-a-thon, using [By the People](https://ByThePeople.org), a crowdsourcing website from the Library of Congress, to improve access to the correspondence of Frederick Douglass. We'll also be streaming music and presentations from the Douglass Day organizers, and exhibiting Black history items from the Newberry's collections. No transcribing experience is necessary! Everyone is welcome. You can choose to drop in for a bit or stay for the whole session.

Friday, February 14, 11AM - 2PM
The Newberry Library – Ruggles Hall
This event will be held in person at the Newberry Library (60 W. Walton St., Chicago).
Registration is required. Please bring your own laptop. Refreshments will be provided.

From douglassday.org:

A Day of Love & Collective Action for Black History!

Douglass Day is an annual program that marks the birth of Frederick Douglass. Each year, we gather thousands of people to help create new & freely available resources for learning about Black history. We frequently focus on important Black women's archives, such as Anna Julia Cooper (2020), Mary Church Terrell (2021), Mary Ann Shadd Cary (2023) and plenty more to come in future years. Learn more about the [history of Douglass Day](#).

Douglass Day 2025 will take many forms — in-person, online, or hybrid! We are delighted to co-present Douglass Day with the Library of Congress and their [By The People](#) crowdsourcing platform. Our main event will be live-streamed for everyone to watch online. If you choose to hold a virtual event, you may wish to consult our [guide for hosting virtual events](#).

Annual Transcribe-A-Thon
Transcribe-a-thons are events in which people gather together to work side-by-side on a crowdsourcing transcription project. We feature a different project each year. We always try to have food, music, and a fun time! Want to hold a transcribe-a-thon? Our program team prepares a set of plans and resources each year to help you bring Douglass Day to your group, school, or community. Free and open to all!

Also visit the [Colored Conventions Project Online](#)

“From 1830 until well after the Civil War, African Americans gathered across the United States and Canada to participate in political meetings held at the state and national levels. A cornerstone of Black organizing in the nineteenth century, these “Colored Conventions” brought Black men and women together in a decades-long campaign for civil and human rights. Our interactive, digital exhibits use historical images and documents to provide further insight into the Colored Conventions and expand our understanding of early Black organizing.”

MEDIEVAL STUDIES LECTURE:

AI-Assisted Transcription of Historical Manuscripts



1 Saint Omer
 2 Chest li contes Jakemon le Muisne baillu de Saint Omer fais en l'an et au terme desus dit
 3 Rechoite Dou fief monseur Jehan de Saint Omer qu'il tient monsigneur le conte en fief cest a savoir tout le pais de toutes mar
 4 cheandises de le vile de Saint Omer et c s. que li hale de Saint Omer li doit et terre a Tadingehem homes rentes hostes et terre a
 5 Werdresque
 6 et vaut bien par tout vi^{xx}lb. l'an et en rent cascun an monsigneur le conte a ii paiemens xxviii lb. xiiii lb. a le Toussains et xiiii lb. al
 7 Ascension. De le conte de Clarkes et est une seignorie que mesires li coens à a Saint Omer d'avoir le connaissance de clains et de respons
 8 fais en le ville de Saint Omer si avant que les metes de le ditte conte sestendent et a tous les Boulenghiers qui vendent pain en le dite

Handwriting character recognition models make the transcription process of handwritten, print, or mixed textual sources more efficient so that scholars can work with larger data sets and focus on analysis. Abigail (Abby) P. Dowling will discuss how large-language learning models ("AI") work for handwriting character recognition, introduce Transkribus, the premier HCR online, and briefly show how Transkribus has helped her expand her data set on medieval environment. Dowling will offer suggestions on the textual sources best suited to Transkribus and how to get started training a personalized model.



Dr. Abigail P. Dowling
 Associate Professor of History
 Mercer University

MONDAY, JAN 27, 2025
5:00 pm via Zoom
 (please register here)




ENVIRONMENTAL NEUROETHICS SEMINAR

A conversation on scientific trajectories and career opportunities featuring world-renowned scholar and professor, Dr. Judy Illes.

Friday, January 31, at 9:20am
Damen Student Center, Sr. Jean MPR South
This event is open to the Loyola Community.

Dr. Illes is Professor of Neurology, Distinguished University Scholar, and UBC Distinguished Professor in Neuroethics. Her research, teaching and outreach initiatives are devoted to ethical, legal, social and policy challenges at the intersection of the brain sciences and biomedical ethics. She has made ground breaking contributions to neuroethical thinking for neuroscience discovery and clinical translation across the life span, and to entrepreneurship and the commercialization of health care.

Dr. Illes is Director of Neuroethics Canada, and faculty in the Centre for Brain Health and at the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute. In addition to her primary appointment in the Faculty of Medicine at UBC, Dr. Illes holds associate appointments in Population and Public Health and in Journalism at UBC, and in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle, WA, USA. She is Vice Chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Advisory Board of the Institute on Neuroscience, Mental Health and Addiction, Director-at-Large of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and co-Lead of the Canadian Brain Research Strategy (www.canadianbrain.ca). She served as Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Ethics of CIHR from 2013-2021. Dr. Illes held the Canada Research Chair in Neuroethics from 2007-2021. She received her PhD in Hearing and Speech Sciences, and in Neuropsychology at Stanford University, and is a pioneer of the field of neuroethics formally established in early 2000.

Dr. Illes received the Order of Canada, one of the country's highest awards for citizens, in 2017. She was elected to the Royal Society of Canada (Division of Life Sciences), and the American Association of Advancement of Science (AAAS, Division of Neuroscience) in 2012. She is also an elected member of the International Women's Forum, an organization of more than 7000 women leaders around the world. Her latest books, a series on *Developments in Neuroethics and Bioethics*, feature pain, global mental health, do-it-yourself brain devices, and neuro-law.

She writes frequently for the *Vancouver Sun* and Canada's *The Conversation Canada*, and hosts community outreach about challenging ethical problems involving biomedicine and the brain throughout BC and across the country.

The Art Institute of Chicago's 2025 University Partner Fest

On **Saturday, February 15**, the Art Institute of Chicago will host [University Partner Fest](#), a daylong event at the museum where students from [University Partner](#) institutions are invited to explore the museum, meet their peers, and learn from faculty and museum professionals across institutions. The program will include:

- Art talks led by college and university students
- A museum career panel
- Gallery activations led by University Partner faculty
- An art-making activity
- An exclusive reception for all guests featuring museum staff and intern alumni
- Information about internships and job opportunities

This event is free and open to students, staff, and faculty of member institutions in the [University Partner Program](#). Simply show a valid ID from a University Partner institution at a University Partner Fest registration table, located in either lobby on the day of the event, to receive a free ticket and event program.

To learn more visit artic.edu/upf.



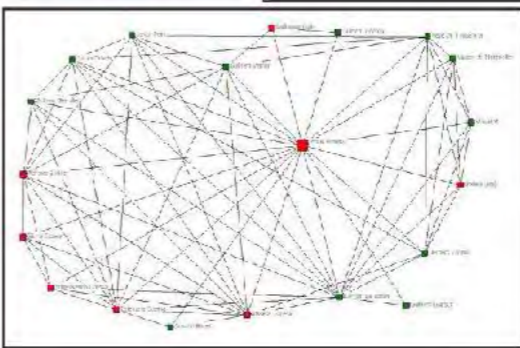
“For Sunday’s Dinner,” William Michael Harnett (1888)

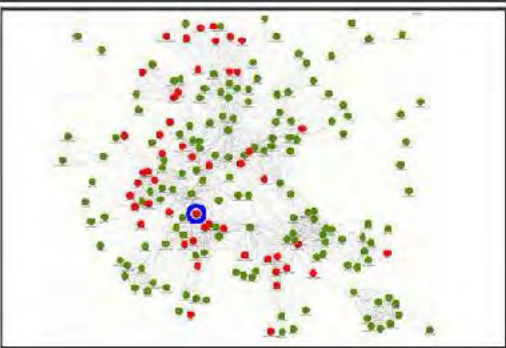
MEDIEVAL STUDIES LECTURE:

Putting Women on the Map: Digital Cataloging and Historical Network Analysis of Dissident Beguines in the Western Mediterranean


Dr. Delfi I. Nieto-Isabel
Queen Mary University of London

<p>SOURCE: BnF Doat 27</p> <p>ACTOR: Na Prous Boneta</p> <p>Apply</p>	<p>Birthplace: Saint Michel de la Cadrière Residence: Montpellier Age: 30-40 Religious status: Beguina Marital status: Unmarried</p>	<p>Source 1: BnF Doat 27 Source 2: BnF Doat 28 Source 3: AAV Reg Vat 114, n.1795 Source 4: Archives Municipales de Montpellier Louver 626</p>
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<p>Born in Saint Michel de la Cadrière</p> <p>1288-1287</p>	<p>Mystical experiences in Narbonne</p> <p>1303</p> <p>Move to Montpellier</p>	<p>Deposition before Henri de Chamayou</p> <p>Good Friday 1321</p> <p>6 August 1325</p> <p>11 November 1328</p> <p>Sentence (and execution)</p>
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MONDAY, FEB 17

4:00 pm via Zoom

[\(please register here\)](#)





LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO
STUDY ABROAD OFFICE
OFFICE OF GLOBAL AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Study Abroad Fair

The Study Abroad Office and the Office of Global and Community Engagement will be hosting our **Spring 2025 Study Abroad Fair** next week.

Event Details:

- Tuesday, January 28th, 2025
- Damen Atrium at Lake Shore Campus
- 11am – 3pm

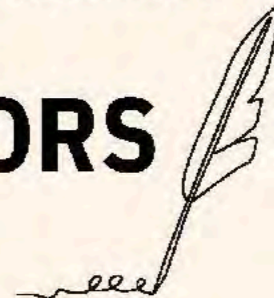
Students will have the opportunity to meet with international partners and explore program options worldwide. The high energy fair environment gives students the chance to begin thinking about how to make their Loyola experience global. Faculty and staff are encouraged to attend to learn more about our study abroad program portfolio. Our faculty-led program portfolio will be in attendance as well. Student attendees are encouraged to complete a pre-registration to let us know they will be attending.

Thanks for sharing the event details and RSVP with your students!

[RSVP HERE](#)

THE INTERDISCIPLINARY HONORS PROGRAM PRESENTS THE

ANNUAL HONORS CONFERENCE



EVENT DATE:

APRIL 13, 2025

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Present your best Honors paper
- Engage with professors and students
- Learn from your peers

SUBMISSION DUE DATE:

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

DETAILS:

Submit a 250 word summary of your paper (including the title and course name) to Dr. Megan Sholar: msholar@luc.edu



Honors Council of the Illinois Region Spring Student Symposium 2025

The annual HCIR Student Symposium in February brings undergraduates together from all across Illinois and often the surrounding region. Students present original research and scholarship, and they enjoy meeting their peers from other institutions.

The conference provides a welcoming, constructive environment in which undergraduate students can discuss their work and grow from the experience. Honors faculty, directors and students preside over the student sessions and also meet with one another to share ideas and concerns about honors education.

A different college or university hosts the symposium each year.

Note: For on-site symposiums, HCIR can reimburse institutions up to \$200 per institution, as needed, for costs of creating posters for poster presentations at the conference.

Date: March 1, 2025

Time: 8:30 a.m. CST

Location: Governors State University

Conference Submissions:

The Spring Symposium is the Honors Council of the Illinois Region’s main annual event to showcase outstanding honors student research and creative activities as well as faculty-student research and creative collaborations. We will be running live sessions for research papers and posters on Saturday, March 1, 2025. HCIR Institution Honors Students, Faculty, Staff and Students can [click here to make their conference submissions](#). The proposal deadline is **February 7th, 2025**. Please reach out to drhea@govst.edu for symposium submission questions or opus@govst.edu for technical assistance with the submission website.

DREAM

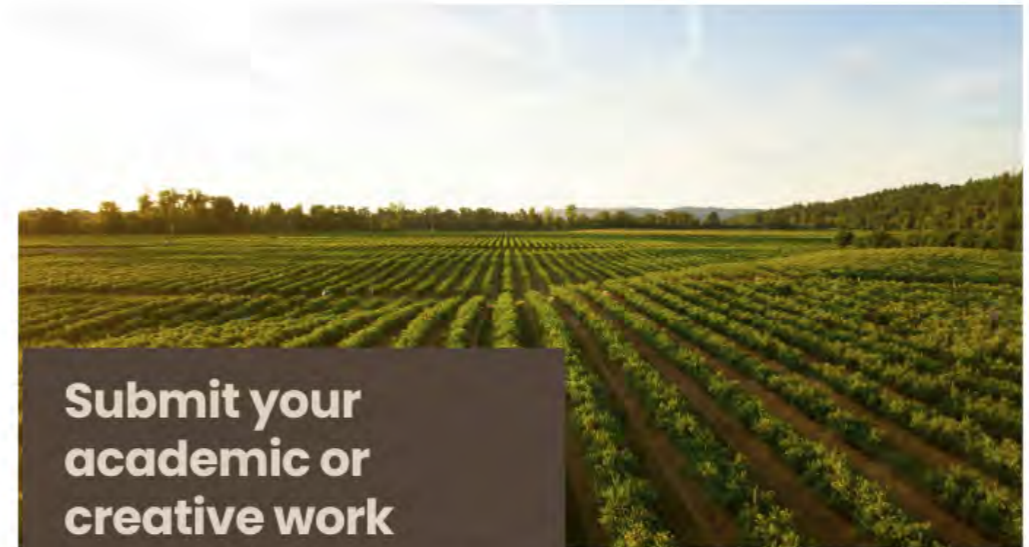
After the symposium, join us at the Center for Performing Arts for **DREAM** performed by the GovState Dance Company!

Tickets for the performance of **DREAM** are sold separately from the symposium.

https://boxofficepurchase.govst.edu/EventAvailability?WebEventId=dream& gl=1*oiggp5* gcl au*Mjk0NDk1ODYwLjE3MzcxNjk3MTU



CALL FOR STUDENT SUBMISSIONS



Submit your academic or creative work

The Upper Midwest Honors Council is launching an undergraduate honors journal by students, for students.

Student submissions may include works in:

- STEM
- Humanities
- Social Sciences
- Creative Works
- Visual and Performing Arts

Priority Deadline: Feb 7th Final Deadline: Feb 14th

Undergraduate and recently graduated students in the Upper Midwest region may submit their work for review and publication.

States included in the region:

- Illinois
- Iowa
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Nebraska
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin



Visit the **Google Form** for
more info

bit.ly/heartlandreview



NATIONAL COLLEGIATE HONORS COUNCIL

Loyola has been a member of the NCHC since 2022

“Honors education fuels a love for learning that lasts long after your college years. NCHC can connect you to scholarships, activities that push the boundaries of standard education, and a community of students and teachers as passionate about learning as you.

Students who engage with NCHC through membership and conference participation get a nationwide perspective on what honors looks like at schools across the country - and around the world!”

(From the NCHC website [student](#) page.)

Unique Events & Programs

Connect with other honors students across the nation while participating in innovative experiential learning trips and programs. Follow the links below:

[Trailblazer with Partners in the Parks](#)

[Explore with Places as Text](#)

[Innovate with Partners in Peace](#)

Awards & Scholarships

Share the incredible research and projects you're working on and compete for funding awards and the opportunity to participate and be recognized at the national NCHC Annual Conference. Follow the links below:

[NCHC Awards](#)

[NCHC Scholarships](#)

[NCHC Fellowships](#)

Get Involved

As a student member of NCHC, you have the unique opportunity to take charge of your experience; help shape the organization's student publication, governance, and programming; and gain valuable experience for your resumé. Follow the links below:

[Publish Your Research](#)

[Join the NCHC Board of Directors](#)

[NCHC Committee Service](#)

2025 Upper Midwest Regional Honors Conference



Minnesota State
University, Mankato

March 27th - 29th,
2025

“LIVING IN COMMUNITY”

Theme: We ask conference participants to spend some time during the weekend considering what does it mean to live in community at this moment in time and how can we as curious learners work to create connections, rather than divisions, in our own communities?

Proposals

Students, faculty, and staff may submit proposals for posters (students only), oral presentations, table discussions, and a three-minute thesis competition (students only). Submissions that align with the conference theme, **Living in Community**, are encouraged but not required for acceptance. **To submit a proposal, complete the online proposal submission form on or before Wednesday, February 12, 2025.** Presenters will be notified of acceptance by February 26, 2025.

Three-Minute Thesis (Students Only Competition)

A Three-minute thesis is a short and challenging oral presentation format that gives students the opportunity to share their work through an informative summary limited to only 180 seconds. Student work does not have to be an Honors thesis, but should represent significant, high-level undergraduate research (such as a senior thesis, honors thesis, capstone research, independent research, etc.) **Competition rules are as follows:** Each institution is limited to two presenters. Institutions may vet these internally before submitting proposals or submit multiple proposals and allow the selection committee to choose two. Each student is allowed one presentation slide that visually represents their content for the entire three minutes (i.e. no using animations or layers to sneak in more content). If accepted, students must submit their slide by March 20 to leah.white@mnsu.edu with “Three Minute Thesis” in the subject line. The student must be able to present in person during the competition. All presentations will be strictly timed to three minutes. Winners will receive an award including bragging rights and some form of material recognition.

General Guidelines

Students, Faculty and Staff may submit multiple proposals. A separate proposal form must be submitted for each proposal. Proposals may be submitted individually or as groups of presenters/moderators. The UMHC seeks to highlight the outstanding work of Honors Students, whether completed within or beyond Honors classrooms. Proposals are not required to relate to the conference theme.

Registration

Conference registration is \$80.00 per person, which includes Thursday dinner in the campus dining center, and a buffet lunch and dinner on Friday. **Registration Deadline is March 12, 2025. [REGISTER HERE!](#)**

Accommodations

We have a room block of 50 double queens available at the AmericInn Hotel at 240 Stadium Road (within ½ mile of campus). The rates are 119.00+ tax for Wednesday and Thursday nights and 129.00+ tax for Friday night. All rates include a deluxe continental breakfast. For reservations call (507) 345-8011 and request the room block using "Midwest Regional Honors Conference." Attendees have until February 27th to reserve a room under the block. Any reservations needing to cancel individually would need to cancel 48 hrs. prior to check in.

Travel Assistance

The Upper Midwest Honors Council provides limited funding of up to \$250 per institution to offset travel costs associated with the annual meeting. To apply for travel assistance, click here or visit: <https://umhc-honors.org/annual-conference>.

Mock Trial & Moot Court At Loyola

[https://loyolamocktrial.com/index.html/#/](https://loyolamocktrial.com/index.html#/)

Program Director: Michael Walsh

MOCK TRIAL is both a course (PLSC 202) and an intercollegiate competition. As a course, it qualifies for Engaged Learning credit and it is a part of the core courses for the Law & Politics minor in the Political Science Department. While the course is offered in the spring, students must make the team in the fall and compete throughout the fall invitational tournament season in order to enroll in the course.

As a competitive activity, students take part in invitational tournaments in the fall and early spring. Those tournaments are hosted by schools on their campuses or in nearby courthouses and they take place on the weekends. Then, starting in February, students compete in American Mock Trial Association ("AMTA")-sanctioned regional and national competitions. AMTA is also responsible for creating the case the students will use during the season and for creating competition rules. Since the Mock Trial program was established at Loyola in 2002, our university has twice been selected to host the national championship tournament. AMTA switches the cases between criminal matters and civil matters every other year.

Mock trial is exactly what its name suggests - the students "try" a case and play the roles of witness and attorney. The students portraying witnesses need to learn, inside and out, the information contained in an affidavit that is part of the case packet produced by AMTA. Students portraying lawyers are expected to know and apply the rules of evidence in order to get their evidence before the judge/jury and to keep the other team's evidence from being heard by the judge/jury. Mock trial teams consist of between 6 and 10 students, and in any particular trial, 3 students will portray lawyers, 3 other students will portray witnesses, and an additional student will keep time (each aspect of the trial is time limited).

The trials are scored by volunteer judges. Judges are usually members of the local legal community (judges and lawyers) and local former mock trial competitors. Each aspect of the trial is assigned a score between 1-10 by each judge and the team that scores the most points wins that judge's ballot.

To be a member of Loyola's team requires the student to put in a tremendous amount of time. They practice twice a week for a couple of hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and on Sunday afternoons when they are not traveling. Each student in the program will attend 2-4 invitational tournaments in the fall and 1-2 more in January to be ready for regional and national competition beginning in February.

MOOT COURT is also both a course and intercollegiate competition. As a course (PLSC 203), it qualifies for Engaged Learning credit and, like Mock Trial, is a core course in the Law & Politics minor. While the course is offered in the fall, students interested in enrolling work on the case problem over the preceding summer in order to take part in regional and national competitions that take place late in the fall.

The focus of Moot Court is appellate advocacy. The case problem consists of two constitutional issues. A team consists of two students, and each student must be able to argue each side of one of the constitutional issues in the case (that is, they need to be able to argue the case on behalf of both the petitioner and respondent). Each team gets 20 minutes to argue the case (each student uses 10 minutes of that time) and the arguments are scored by volunteer judges (who are usually members of the local legal community or former moot court competitors).

Judges are expected to pepper the students with questions (similar to real arguments in appellate courts including the Supreme Court) and the

students are expected to be able to answer those questions in a way that advances their side of the case. Judges score their students on their ability to answer questions; their logic and the soundness of their arguments; their demeanor in dealing with the judges and opposing counsel; and the quality of their advocacy. As with Mock Trial, the team that scores the most points wins the ballot.

The case problem is provided by the AMCA and the organization is also responsible for providing competition rules and arranging for hosts for regional and national competitions.

COACH MICHAEL H. WALSH, JD AND ADJUNCT PROFESSOR IN THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Since founding the Mock Trial program in 2002 and the Moot Court program in 2012, Coach Walsh has led his students through hundreds of competitions.

In addition to coaching, he is an Adjunct Professor of law-related courses at Loyola; in-house counsel at Snapon Credit; the current President and member of the Board of Directors of the American Moot Court Association; and a member of the American Mock Trial Association's board of directors.

In 2011 he was given the Outstanding Coach Award at the National Collegiate Invitational, for which he was nominated by his students. In 2015, he received the Neal Smith Award for Excellence in Legal Education, awarded by the American Mock Trial Association.

Coach Walsh has published articles on the courts and legislative politics in the *American Political Science Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Policy Studies Review*, *Social Science Quarterly*, and *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.



Model United Nations (MUN) simulations allow students to learn about international relations, the United Nations and diplomacy in a "hands-on" fashion. Model UN learning goes beyond the classroom to immerse students in the UN experience. https://www.luc.edu/politicalscience/model_un.shtml

The Model United Nations Club

The LUC Model UN club is a student organization. It is open to all students who are interested in learning about the United Nations and in participating in Model UN conferences. Every fall term, the club prepares for one of the most prestigious national simulations, the Chicago-based [American Model United Nations](#) conference. Although most members of the Model UN Club participate in conferences, this is not a requirement for membership.

For more information about the Model UN Club, please contact the club officers at lucmodelun@gmail.com

The Model United Nations Course

Every spring term students can take a 3-credit course on the Model United Nations. This course offers an in-depth analysis of the workings of the United Nations. It is designed to introduce students to activities within the global organization and to provide an understanding of international negotiations that unfold in the UN setting. In the end, the course assists students in preparing for their roles as distinguished diplomats when we travel to the [National Model United Nations](#) conference in New York. This is the largest Model UN conference in the world. It brings together 3–4,000 students from more than 25 countries. Part of the conference takes place within the actual United Nations building. Over the past few years our teams have been very successful and have won numerous awards.

Due to the limited number of positions that are allotted to each university taking part in NMUN (and the interest that Loyola students have shown for this class), participation in the course involves a selection process. The application process begins in late September and ends in late October.

For more information on the class and on the selection process, please contact Dr. Brian Endless (bendless@luc.edu).

COME TOGETHER TALK LOYOLA KICK OFF!

With Prof Brian
Endless

WHERE: CROWN CENTER AUDITORIUM

WHEN: FEBRUARY 12 AT 5:30 PM

Are you sick of all the fighting?
Join us to Come Together and
discover how YOU can make a
difference in your life and your
community

Co-Sponsors: Dept of Political Science &
the Honors Program



Calling Chicago-Area Undergraduate Researchers:

Present your research at the Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium!



April 19th, 10am-6pm

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Why present at CAURS?

Are you passionate about research and eager to share your work? The Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium (CAURS) is one of the largest annual undergraduate research conferences in the country, bringing together hundreds of students from all disciplines.

At CAURS, attendees can present their research through poster and oral presentations. The event also features dynamic speakers, interactive workshops, and representatives from industry, graduate schools, and professional programs.

How to apply:

Abstract submissions are currently open on a rolling basis, and the deadline is March 1st. Don't miss your chance to showcase your research and connect with the Chicago research community!

To apply, please fill out our application at the following link:
<https://forms.gle/vQLTq2QfQ3erKJCbA>



Honors Student Journalists Are *Extra! Extra!*

Honors Student Journalists Are *Extra! Extra!*

In Their Own Words

Third-year Interdisciplinary Honors student, Lilli Malone, is the News Editor at *The Phoenix* and has written for the paper since her first week of college. She is studying Journalism, Criminal Justice, and Political Science, and plans to attend law school after graduation. She has worked as a Breaking News Correspondent for *The Daily Herald*, and has interned at *Block Club Chicago* and *Quotable Magazine*. Originally from Columbus, Ohio, Lilli enjoys traveling, reading, and telling the stories of Loyola and Rogers Park community members.

I was initially drawn to the career of journalism because I wanted to be a storyteller. I loved the idea of being the voice for someone who couldn't find their own or was unable to use it to begin with. I also loved that the career gave me the chance to get out of a desk job, the chance to interact directly with my community and build lasting relationships with people around me through writing. My passion for it has remained strong through college: I am currently the News Editor of Loyola's student newspaper, *The Phoenix*.

Through the Honors Program, I was introduced to philosopher Hannah Arendt's text, *Eichmann in Jerusalem*, a work about the post-WWII trial of a Nazi officer who proudly increased the efficiency of the system for exterminating the Jewish people. This text began as a series of articles for *The New Yorker* magazine in the 1960s. Arendt

wrote *Eichmann in Jerusalem* because she wanted to dive deeper into the legal proceedings by talking about not only emotions in the courtroom, but about international reactions and implications, as well. She states, "I was not interested in the question of Eichmann's guilt or innocence. I was concerned with the question of how it was possible that this man, an apparently normal, even banal, figure, could be responsible for such an enormous crime." I find Arendt to be such an inspiring model for journalists because she tried so hard to understand the mind of the subject she was reporting on. She set out to cover the human stories which were impacted by legal proceedings, not the other way around, and that was something that others were failing to do at the time. She saw a gap in information, and she decided to fill it. I aspire to this.

But what happens in this post-presidential election world, if I am no longer permitted the freedoms necessary to do my work? There has been a lot of discussion about whether or not journalists are doing their jobs well, and some voices have even called for censoring the press. I do not know what journalism is going to look like in four years, and that is something that is very scary to think about. In an effort to fight violations of the First Amendment, I have decided to go to law school after graduation, to study Constitutional Law. I want to gain a clear understanding of the power of the constitution in American government and how it can be used to the advantage of democracy in the face of crime and hate.





“The **Loyola Phoenix** is the official student newspaper of Loyola University Chicago. The paper was founded in 1969 and is dedicated to reporting on the happenings at the university, as well as the surrounding Rogers Park and Edgewater neighborhoods, Chicago and important national and international events. The paper is distributed every Wednesday on Loyola’s Lake Shore and Water Tower campuses, barring academic breaks and holidays. The Phoenix complies with the Society of Professional Journalists Code of Ethics and is editorially independent from Loyola, but funded in part by the university and advertisements.”

Any questions or inquiries can be directed to phoenixeic@luc.edu. The newsroom is located in the School of Communication at Loyola’s Water Tower Campus at 51 E. Pearson St. and can be contacted at [\(773\) 508-7110](tel:(773)508-7110).

<https://loyolaphoenix.com/>

This past semester, and with the rest of my Honors “Encountering Europe” class, I attended the Loyola Theatre Program’s production of Bertolt Brecht’s play, *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*, which parodies Hitler’s rise to power in Germany. I found the production incredibly timely, as it was just before the presidential election, and tensions were running high about what the outcome could mean for our democracy. Brecht’s play is a dark and twisted look at how one democracy failed and how others could follow. The final line of this play really spoke to me. The character broke the fourth wall to address the audience directly: “Learn how to see and not to gape. To act instead of talking all day long. The world was almost won by such an ape! The nations put him where his kind belongs. But don’t rejoice too soon at your escape — the womb he crawled from is still going strong.”

In my career, I wish to be not just a storyteller, but also a truth-seeker. I plan to go in whatever direction I am needed the most, because I want to make as much of an impact as possible. I have no idea what the future holds, but I do know that the election and the political tensions in America at present, as well as my Honors class on “Law and Literature” and my class on “Criminal Procedure,” have made me reflect more on my next steps after graduation.

First-year Interdisciplinary Honors Student, Munya Noman, writes about books and music for *The Phoenix*. She loves exploring new narratives and capturing the heart of campus with stories that focus on culture and the arts. Read her articles for *The Phoenix*: <https://loyolaphoenix.com/author/mnoman/>. Noman is a first-year Neuroscience and English double major. She is the Freshman Representative for the Honors Student Government, and participates in many more campus groups and mentoring programs.

Over the winter break, I had time to reflect on my first semester in college, especially my involvement and academic workload. Being a first-generation student is difficult because I am responsible for figuring out how I want my college experience to look with no familial help. Before attending Loyola, I led multiple clubs at my high school and I’m currently serving as the Chief Executive Director of a student-led non-profit. It terrified me to attend a university not knowing if I could be actively involved in the community, so I sought ways to improve my understanding of Loyola. Prior to the start of the fall semester, I was part of a program directed by the Center of Diversity and Inclusion, the Scholar Transition and Enrichment Program (STEP). Through STEP, I was exposed to Loyola’s resources and ways I can benefit myself and others. Because of my experience in STEP, I was able to

know what clubs are available and how I can join. I got interested in the work of the Residence Hall Association and so I decided to campaign to become the Finance Coordinator of Francis Hall. Additionally, I also campaigned for the position of the Freshman Representative for the Honors Government. Since I was involved in two leadership positions, I wanted to give back to the community by volunteering so I volunteered with Loyola 4 Chicago. I tutored refugee high schoolers once a week in the evening and helped students with chemistry work. In addition to my administrative work and volunteering, I am also a Staff Writer for the *Loyola Phoenix*. I report on all things art, from book reviews to campus culture. Through the *Phoenix*, I got to explore Chicago by writing for the “L-Stop Musts” column, visiting Chicago/Rogers Park-specific stores that are just off the Red Line. I discovered second-hand bookstores, coffee shops, and holiday shopping. In addition to finding intriguing stores, I also learned my way around the CTA! I published around 3+ articles every week for the *Phoenix* during the fall semester, all while I had a full schedule that included the Honors lecture and discussion classes. The Honors lecture and discussions were challenging yet manageable. I was able to dedicate the time needed for school work while also being a leader in the community — all of that as a first-year!



Munya Noman is a first-year Neuroscience and English double major. Her favorite part about writing for the student newspaper is exploring campus stories with a focus on culture and the arts. Read her articles for *The Phoenix*: <https://loyolaphoenix.com/author/mnoman/>

When not reviewing books or writing about music for *The Phoenix*, Noman enjoys reading, writing poetry, drinking coffee, and watching *Young Sheldon*.

Dr. Bastiaan Vanacker (Loyola School of Communications) teaches an interdisciplinary section of HONR 204 Science and Society. He is an Associate Professor in the School of Communication, who focuses on media ethics and law. He was the former program director for the Center of Digital Ethics and Policy and the former Chair of AEJMC's Media Ethics Division. Dr. Vanacker has authored or co-edited three books and guest-edited a special issue of the *Journal of Media Ethics*. His research has won numerous awards at national conferences (including two best faculty papers at AEJMC's annual conference) and has been published in the *Journal of Mass Media Ethics*, *Journalism Studies*, *Journal of Information, Ethics and Information Technology*, and *Convergence*. He has also authored numerous book chapters.

When I started teaching a “Science and Communication” class for the Honors program four years ago, I embraced it as an opportunity to close the gap between journalism and science. As a journalism professor, I am familiar with research indicating that journalists often do a poor job of communicating science, and scientists do little better in sharing their research findings with a lay audience. My class is centered around the question of how science can be communicated ethically and accurately to the general public, an issue that has gained importance since the pandemic.

I think that science communication/journalism is not given the attention it warrants in the STEM programs and in the journalism major at my school (The School of Communication). Scientists often do not consider communicating science to the public at large a part of their jobs, and most of the students who end up in journalism are generally not that fond of the hard sciences and lack confidence in writing about them. In my class, I try to bridge this divide.

In each class, I have about one or two

students from the School of Communication's journalism program, and they are instrumental in representing the journalism perspective. They understand that the conventions of journalism (i.e., creating stories that will get clicks, making science accessible without oversimplification or sensationalism, getting reluctant scientists and experts to talk to media, find people and anecdotes that humanize the story) make the job of the science journalists a challenging one. The STEM students in my class then realize that the quality of science communication is not only the responsibility of journalists but also of the scientific community, which needs to find ways to get its message across in our mediated society.

Last Fall, I gave the students the option to write a journalism piece about a scientific topic for their final paper instead of the research paper I traditionally assign. I am currently a Co-PI on a Neuroscience and Society grant for which I am running a neuroscience journalism competition. Last semester's competition was open to Loyola undergrads, and I suggested to my students to write a piece about neuroscience for their final project so they could submit it to the contest as well. A handful of students took me up on the invite to double-dip, and two of them ended up coming in first (Mason Eaton) and third (Alex de Foy), neither of them journalism majors. (The second-place entry was from a journalism student who had written a piece in a different class.)

I try to stimulate this cross-pollination between STEM and journalism in my honors classroom. Despite the sometimes fraught relationship between scientists and the media, it would be a mistake not to see their goals as aligned. In an era where science is under attack and facts often are losing out against falsehoods that have been repeated enough to have received a veneer of truthiness, scientists and journalists are fighting on the same front.



The School of Communications is located at Loyola’s Water Tower Campus, in the heart of Chicago’s “Magnificent Mile” neighborhood.

Take Honors Courses at the WTC

- HONR 209 Encountering Asia with Philosophy Professor Richard Kim
- HONR 203 US Experience “City as Text” Engaged Learning Course with Dr. Swanton

Consult our Course Descriptions for More Details....



The NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity

CALL FOR ASSOCIATE EDITORS

UReCA, (The NCHC Journal of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity) is the official undergraduate journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council. Each year, the journal seeks to recruit a small number of undergraduate students from across the **United States** to contribute to our editorial process. Join our team today to gain exclusive, behind-the-scenes editorial experience working on the **NCHC’s only** undergraduate-led publication. *UReCA* has published nine editions to date and is working towards the publication of our **10th** year anniversary edition in the 2025-2026 cycle!



Why Should You Join Our Team?

- Represent your home honors program
- Attend an all-expenses-paid BootCamp at an NCHC institution
- Work with a like-minded team of honors undergraduate students nationwide!
- Develop editorial and research skills
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Apply here!



Application Deadline: April 1, 2025

nchcureca.com



Just for Honors Alumni & Friends

Speakers Bureau

Become an Alumni Volunteer (in person or remotely). Bring your experience and skills back to the classroom! Add your name to our new Honors Speakers Bureau to help faculty, residence life, and student groups create experiential learning opportunities. (No one but the program Director will contact you personally.)

Service Projects

What community organizations or charities are you passionate about? Would you like to recruit current Honors students to the cause? Do you want to hold a fundraising event or sponsor an internship? Add your name to our Database of Service Projects that can be shared with Honors students and student groups. (No one but the program Director will contact you personally.)

LoyolaLinked

Employers are looking for specific skills and experience - alumni mentors may hold the key. Our graduates have indicated almost unanimous interest in mentoring students interested in the path they've followed. Inside LoyolaLinked, alumni and current students get exposure to different industries and jobs, get resume advice, and hone interview skills. To link up with the Honors community on LoyolaLinked:

1. Create a profile at <https://loyolalinked.luc.edu/hub/luc/>
2. Mention "Honors Program" in your profile "About" description and check "Honors" as a Campus Activity you were involved with.
3. Input "Honors" in the Network search bar or add the "Honors" filter under "More Filters" > "Campus Activities" to find our Honors Community.



What We Could Do With \$1 Million

\$500,000 For Scholarships

A donation of \$500,000 would yield \$20,000/year in scholarship funds:

- There are currently no scholarships designated for Loyola Honors students. \$20,000/year would allow us to establish 4 new scholarships of \$5,000 each—one for a student in every year of study.

\$500,000 For Experiential Learning Activities

A donation of \$500,000 would yield \$20,000/year, which would nearly cover our annual expenses for experiential programming:

- 325 student tickets to the Lyric Opera = \$8,125.00
- 325 student tickets to the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre = \$11,375.00
- \$250 for experiential activities for 15 Honors courses = \$3,750.00

Support our program today through a donation to the Rzeczynski Honors Fund.

You can also reach out to Keenan Cutsforth (kcutsforth@luc.edu), Senior Director of LUC Development, to start a longterm partnership, to make a donation, and to discuss naming opportunities.