



HONORS MAGAZINE



september 2021 edition

A PUBLICATION OF THE HONORS PROGRAM
LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

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01 From the Director's Desk

The inaugural issue of the *Honors Magazine* features photographs of the vibrant, uplifting graffiti and murals from our new location: the Edgewater neighborhood of Chicago. (Where no artist credit is given, you can be sure the photo is one that I took with my phone, walking along the alley between Francis Hall and the El tracks.) You can now find the Honors faculty and administrative offices on the first floor of Francis Hall, a contemporary residence wedged between the lakeshore and the city's spray-painted jungle. No less than Lake Michigan, this street art provides a dramatic backdrop for our academic routines and personal reflections. Our community is surrounded by great views.

The excitement of new beginnings—of your first year at university and in a new city, of the first issue of a new magazine and new offices—has been nearly obliterated by the relentless demands that we *adapt* and *pivot* during the pandemic. A vaccine cannot prevent exhaustion, anxiety, or isolation. I hope, however, that your reading experience here is one of *things coming together* rather than falling apart. These pages are dedicated to building an Honors community that stretches across space and time, one that links and uplifts us all in our collective and individual pursuits. In that spirit, I will be sending all issues to the Library's Archivist for Loyola's Special and Digital Collections. To become a contributor, email: vstrain@luc.edu.

Have a great semester!

Prof. Strain



Professor Virginia Lee Strain
Director

Claudia Orellana
Program Assistant

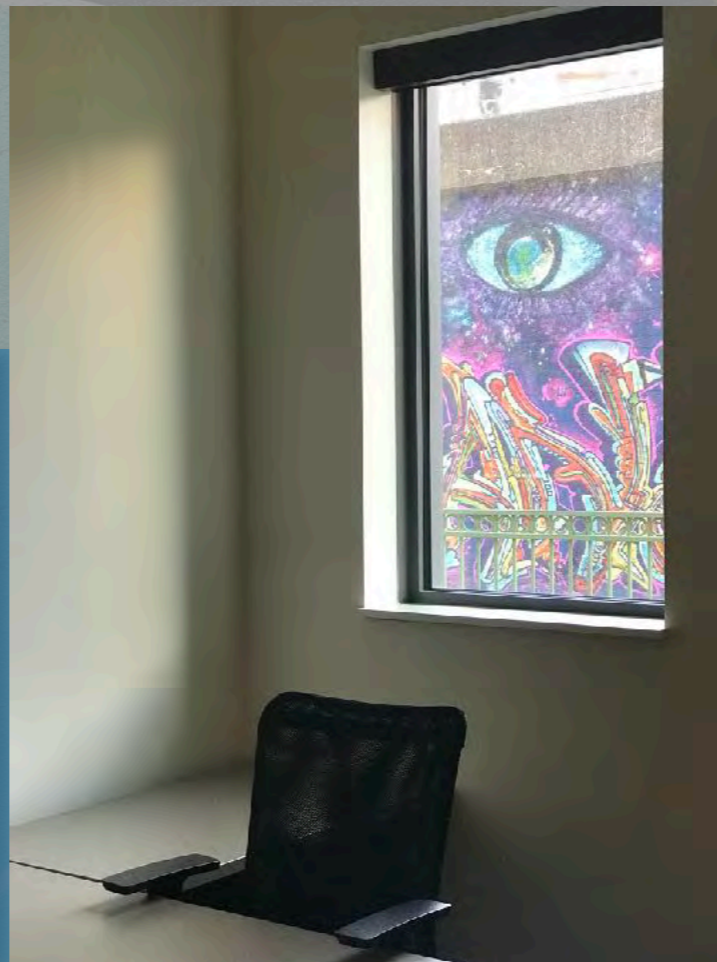
THE HONORS PROGRAM

offices Francis Hall, 6314 N. Winthrop Ave.

mailing address 1032 W. Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60660

website luc.edu/honors

email honors@luc.edu





Senior Award: Natalie Murdock



Social Justice Award: Hassan Khan



Freshman Essay Prize: Campbell Rosener

THE 2020-21 STUDENT AWARD WINNERS

COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS

The Graduating Senior Award (for academic achievement and community contributions): Natalie Murdock; The Honors Moral Responsibility Award (for achievement in the Honors Capstone course): Claire Evans; The Social Justice Award (for advancing equity): Hassan Khan, who founded the Loyola chapter of Doctors Without Borders; The Freshman Essay Prize: Charlene Guerrero, for “Dreams Deferred: The Efficacy of Hope in Langston Hughes’ Poetry and Impressionist Art,” and Campbell Rosener, for “The Labyrinth of a Single Line: Gulliver’s (Time) Travels and Versailles’ Grand Canal.” For more information on each winner, visit our website: luc.edu/honors

THE HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION (HSA)

MISSION

The HSA is committed to fostering a supportive space, connecting students across the program, developing service opportunities, and serving as a social and academic organization for all Interdisciplinary Honors Program students.

MEETINGS

All honors students are encouraged to attend HSA meetings! Official meetings will be held once a month, with bi/weekly study or social events.

CONTACT INFORMATION

hsa.luc@gmail.com



A NEW FACULTY ADVISOR

Dr. Andrew Wilson is a member of the History Department, with research interests in Irish history, US immigration history, and contemporary European ethnic conflicts.

EXECUTIVE BOARD 2021-22

PRESIDENT *Marina Barbera (Global Studies & Advocacy/Social Change '22)*

VICE PRESIDENT *Emily Wirtz (Political Science & Global Studies '23)*

TREASURER *Addison Emig (Political Science & Global Studies '24)*

SECRETARY *Sarah Solver (Anthropology & Psychology '23)*

COMMUNICATIONS/AdPR *Chloe Ryan (Political Science '24)*

FRESHMAN REP *TBA: Elections to be held Fall 2021*

CAN REP *Soph Pittman (Neuroscience & Psychology '24)*

SERVICE CHAIR *TBA: Elections to be held Fall 2021*



WHAT TO LOOK FORWARD TO THIS YEAR!

- 1st meeting of the 2021-22 school year
- Leadership opportunities: Elections of Freshman Rep and Service Chair
- Fun events like potting succulents and discussing current affairs
- **Design contest for the Honors sweatshirt**
- Connecting with other students in the program....

THE HONORS MENTORS

This new student-led initiative aims to build a closer, more inclusive and supportive Honors community by bridging the social gap between upper- and lower-year students. Mentors provide one-on-one time, social activities, and academic support for freshmen in order to create mutually beneficial relationships that, collectively, strengthen the bonds of the larger community as a whole. *More than 200 Freshmen and upperclassmen signed up this summer: the program is currently at capacity!*



SOPHOMORES, JUNIORS, AND SENIORS:

Any Honors student who has passed HONR 101 and 102 is eligible to be a mentor.

HONORS MENTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Spending time and sharing knowhow with a mentee during the Fall semester
- Directing Freshmen to program and campus resources
- Mentors are encouraged to hold social events with other mentors or organizations to promote community-building
- Supporting pre-med and pre-law students
- Responding to questions from prospective students seeking information on the program experience.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: luchonorsmentors@gmail.com

FRESHMEN:

Looking for advice from a peer who does *not* live in your residence room? Someone a little more experienced, who can tell you how the year will look in hindsight? Someone who knows their way around campus, and who likes to jog or play basketball? Someone who is on the same career path?

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT: luchonorsmentors@gmail.com



“This position could truly encompass the roles of a mentor, a peer, and a friend, for incoming students who may find themselves struggling within the program, in any sort of way. Especially for identities such as students of color, first generation students, and LGBTQ students, who often feel isolated by a lack of representation in both the curriculum, student body, and faculty of Honors, having a dedicated Honors mentor who relates to them could soothe their transition into the program and affirm that they belong here while also providing them whatever resources they may need.” (Emily Cerkenik, Junior)



jduvall2, "Black Lives Matter Street Art Summer of 2020," *Loyola University Chicago Digital Special Collections*, accessed July 1, 2021, <http://specialcollections.luc.edu/items/show/2039>. Description: Black Lives Matter painting on a building on Broadway in Edgewater.

MEET OUR NEWEST STUDENT GROUP

THE HONORS BIPOC COALITION (HBC)

WHO ARE WE?

We are Honors BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color) students who came together in order to improve the Loyola Honors Program for all students, but especially for marginalized populations. We envision an Honors Program that reflects a holistic view of all Honors students and promotes mutual respect. Our mission is to create a more welcoming and affirming space for BIPOC students through the diversification of the student population, curriculum, and faculty and to provide greater support for marginalized students.

GET INVOLVED

We hope to have weekly meetings and host events at least once a month! HBC will be hosting town halls, guest speakers, discussions on books and pop culture in relation to the honors program, and potentially facilitate field trips to the art museum!

CONTACT INFORMATION

The best way to get information about the Honors BIPOC Coalition is to follow us on Instagram [@honorsbipoc](#) or to email honorsbipoc@gmail.com.

2021-22 EXECUTIVE

President: Diya Patel

Vice President: Gia Clarke

Secretary: Afnan Amdeen

Community Chair: Farron Edmonds

Publicity Chair: Lily Chen

Treasurer: Ella Montgomery

Freshman Representative: TBD (If you are interested in the position, please reach out to Diya Patel dpatel20@luc.edu)

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTION

Community Service and Action (CSA) provides the Loyola community with opportunities to serve, learn, and advocate. In the Jesuit educational tradition, we foster mutually beneficial partnerships with organizations in our community to build the greater good. We help students to learn about the community they call home, while acknowledging the assets and the “gritty realities” (Peter Hons Kolvenbach) of the world. In CSA we contribute to our mission and the mission of the university through various programs on our website: www.luc.edu/serve/.



LOYOLA4CHICAGO

Loyola4Chicago (L4C) is a weekly group-based service program. Apply for L4C at the beginning of each semester to be placed in a small group with a peer leader. Then, serve once a week at the assigned site. L4C service opportunities include working with youth, individuals experiencing houselessness, immigrants, individuals with disabilities and more.

We hope that this program can provide a time and community that is the right fit for everyone. Applications for the program typically open the first day of the semester and are open for about ten days.

www.luc.edu/serve/service/l4c

IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE

The Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice is a conference/retreat held annually in Washington, DC. A delegation of Loyola students is chosen each year to attend and learn about advocacy in all levels of the government as well as various justice issues most pertinent at the time. Delegates practice their advocacy skills in person with elected officials in Washington. Applications for the delegation open at the start of the school year and are typically open for about two weeks.

www.luc.edu/serve/educationadvocacy/ignatianfamilyteach-in/

SOUP KITCHEN OUTREACH

Each Tuesday and Friday from 3:30-7:15pm students join us for the Soup Kitchen outreach program. Students meet in Damen 232 and travel to St. Thomas of Canterbury with peer leaders. While there, prepare, serve, and clean up after a meal, while building community with the guests. This is a drop in opportunity that allows students to attend when it works for their schedules. Remember your Pass and mask!

www.luc.edu/serve/service/soupkitchen

LUCserve

LUCserve is an education and advocacy focused program planned and facilitated by and for students. Anyone is welcome to join in our programs happening each month to learn more about various social justice issues. No previous knowledge or experience in these issues is necessary. We look forward to seeing you at one of these engaging student focused sessions!

www.luc.edu/serve/educationadvocacy/lucserve/

VOLUNTEER

STUDENT CONFERENCE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE



Dr. Nadi is looking for Honors students who wish to volunteer for the student conference organizing committee. Committee responsibilities will begin in the Fall 2021 semester, while the conference itself will be held in person in the Spring 2022 semester.

THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE:

- Deciding on conference theme and size
- Creating a call for papers, recruiting student participants
- Advertising the event
- Recruiting faculty to read submissions and to be respondents to panels and papers
- Booking the space and refreshments
- Moderating panels
- Photographing event
- Issuing certificates



PLEASE CONTACT DR. NADI TO GET INVOLVED: gnadi@luc.edu



The Department of Fine and Performing Arts is a pre-eminent, liberal arts-based training program in the highly competitive Chicagoland area.

FALL 2021 PERFORMANCES

THEATRE *Polaroid Stories*

THEATRE *Radium Girls*

DANCE *Nevertheless, She Persisted*

MUSIC *University Chorale and Women's Chorus Concert*

MUSIC *Chamber Choir and Women's Chamber Choir Concert*

MUSIC *Jazz Showcase*

MUSIC *Chamber Ensembles and Symphony Orchestra Concert*

MUSIC *Percussion Ensemble and Wind Ensemble Concert*

FOR MORE SHOW INFORMATION <https://luc.universitytickets.com/>

Art is a necessary element of the human condition. Through art we are able to integrate the physiological with the psychological and thus support the health of the individual through understanding and appreciation, through comfort, and through inspiration. It is also a tool for advocacy, and an opportunity to improve the world through aesthetic appreciation. (Dr. Mark Lococo, DFPA Chair)

HONORS STUDENT TICKET SUBSCRIPTIONS

3-SHOW HONORS STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION (\$20)

Pick any 3 performances. In person or live-streaming tickets available.

4-SHOW HONORS STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION (\$30)

Pick any 4 performances. In person or live-streaming tickets available.

5-SHOW HONORS STUDENT SUBSCRIPTION (\$40)

Pick any 5 performances. In person or live-streaming tickets available

PURCHASE PACKAGES HERE

<https://luc.universitytickets.com/w/packages/Packages.aspx>

JOIN THE DFPA EMAIL LIST

<https://signup.e2ma.net/signup/1938010/18947/>

REFRESHING www.luc.edu/honors

THE HONORS PROGRAM WEBSITE GETS A MAKEOVER

With the help of several administrative assistants (Claudia Orellana, Adam Neumann, and Anna Rubenstein), the Honors Program is proud to announce that our online presence has been revamped. The look is much cleaner, and the content should be much easier to navigate. The goal was to create a more helpful resource for current prospective, current, and past students.

Some highlights:

- The information typically included in a newsfeed or under “Events” will now be gathered and archived into the *Honors Magazine*, the issues of which will be available to view online and download as pdfs.
- As an ongoing initiative, we are trying to provide more information about scholarships, research, and other academic opportunities. If you have come across any scholarship program that you think the Honors community would be interested in, please let us know.
- The course descriptions for each semester will now be uploaded to the website as flashy pdfs under Academics > Course Catalogue by Semester.
- Student groups will have a greater presence on the site.
- Program and event information and updates will be made available on a new Facebook account.



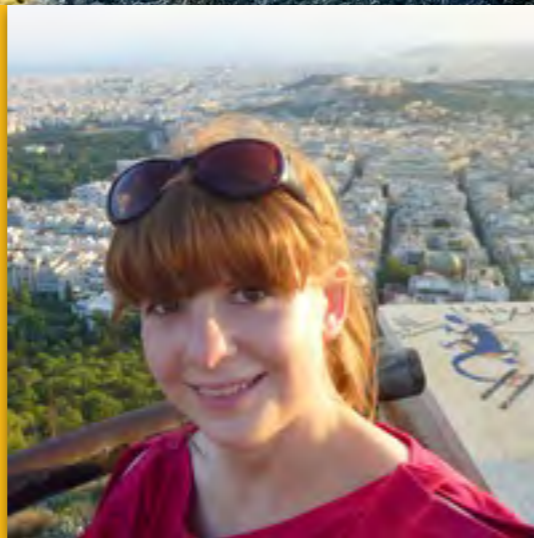
MEET THE NEW INSTRUCTOR FOR THE HONORS FRESHMAN SEMINARS

DR COURTNEY TOMASELLI

Dr. Tomaselli holds a PhD in Byzantine and Islamic Art History from Harvard University, with a minor concentration in Western Medieval Art History. Her book project, *Teaching Salvation in Byzantium*, examines a group of manuscripts produced in Constantinople in the latter part of the eleventh century that feature didactic and contemplative imagery relating to monastic salvation. Ultimately, her book will illuminate reading and book culture both within monasteries, and between monasteries, lay confraternities, and individuals.

As a Teaching Fellow at Harvard, Dr. Tomaselli gained teaching experience in courses that ranged from the “Theory and Method of Art History” to the “History of Photography, Media, and Popular Culture.” “These courses,” explains Dr. Tomaselli, “helped me to infuse my teaching with a variety of approaches taken from other subfields within Art History and from other academic disciplines.”

After receiving her BA in Classical Archaeology at Columbia University, Dr. Tomaselli worked in fine art conservation at institutions such as the Brooklyn Museum. “My conservation experience comes through in the technical perspective I bring to the classroom. I also focus on the history of museums and ethical issues that arise in museum collecting, display, and conservation practices, as well as cultural heritage management. These vitally important areas are too often neglected in the art historical curriculum.”



FROM DR. TOMASELLI'S ARTICLE ON "THE VIENNA DIOSCURIDES," IN SMARTHISTORY, APRIL 5, 2021:

For many, the term “Byzantine art” conjures otherworldly images of holy figures in golden icons and mosaics. But opening the pages of the large, sumptuously illustrated Byzantine manuscript known as the *Vienna Dioscurides*, you might be surprised to discover a remarkably lifelike illustration of a peacock. Despite its wear, you can still see how the peacock puffs its blue chest and shows off its feathers, practically strutting across the page. The manuscript has 491 folios with more than 400 images of plants and animals. If you keep turning the pages you will notice images of medical experts, therapeutic and poisonous plants and animals, birds, personifications of abstract ideals, and portraits of a princess. This book's scientific subject matter as well as its lifelike illustrations stand in stark contrast to common clichés about Byzantine art as merely depicting spiritual themes. But who was this book made for, and why? (Read more: <https://smarthistory.org/the-vienna-dioscurides/>.)



MEET THE FALL 2021 VISITING SCHOLAR: OMER M. MOZAFFAR

THE VISITING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

This initiative brings prominent scholars from the wider academic community into the Freshman Seminars, to lecture for one week on a historical text that is central to their field, in order to expand and diversify the perspectives and curriculum offered by the Honors Program.

Steeped in the history and the latest advances of their fields, these senior scholars offer a vital account of the relationship between the past, present, and future of major intellectual and cultural traditions.

These scholars also introduce students to the practice of academic exchange that has been pivotal to the development of new knowledge for millennia. The Visiting Scholar Program is part of an ancient and ongoing critical discourse that transcends institutional, geographical, and even linguistic barriers.

In the spring of 2021, our inaugural Visiting Scholar, Professor David Chinitz, lectured on the poetry of Langston Hughes in HONR 102.

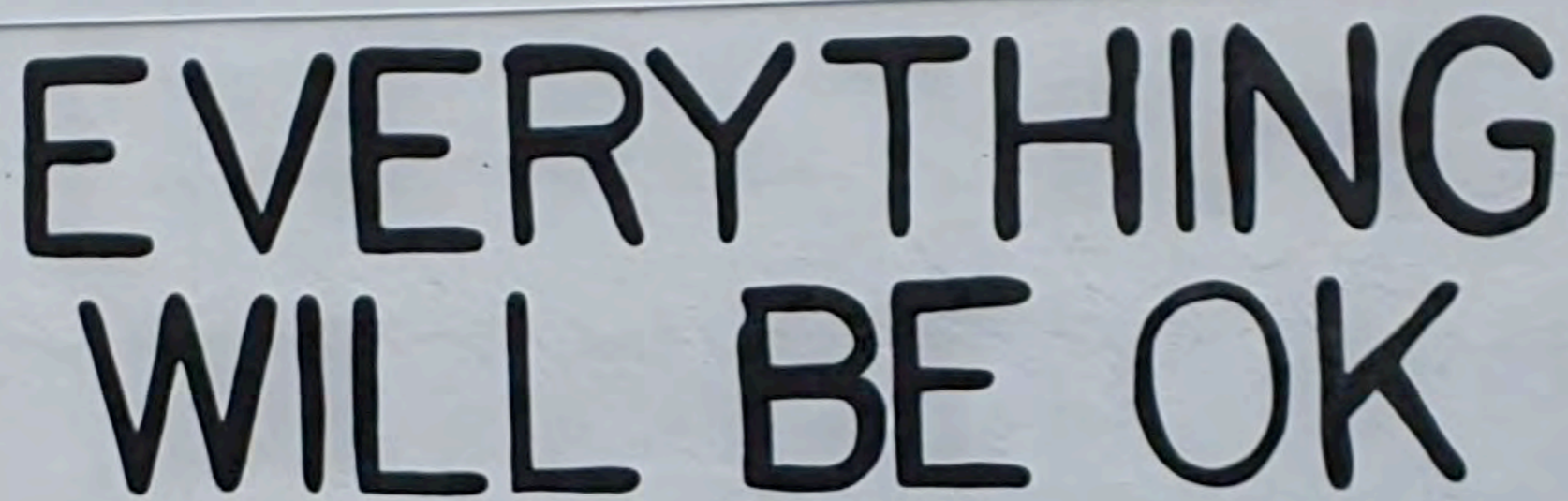


Omer M. Mozaffar is Loyola's Muslim Chaplain. He has received Islamic studies training both through traditional and academic sources. He is a Lecturer in the Departments of Theology and Modern Languages and Literatures. He has taught at the University of Chicago and DePaul University, among other schools. He has taught courses on the Qur'an, the Sira, the

Hadith, Islamic Law, Spirituality/Purification, Islamic revivalism, Islam and Politics, Sectarianism, al-Ghazali, Rumi, Iqbal, Arabic, Film, and Comparative religions. In 2011, he was granted an "Excellence in Teaching Award in Humanities, Arts, and Sciences" through the University of Chicago's Graham School. For over two decades he has been giving sermons and leading classes at Islamic centers all across Chicagoland. In 2017, he was named Loyola University's "Staff Member of the Year." In 2018, he began writing as a columnist for the Chicago Sun-Times in its "Just Relations" series.

Mr. Mozaffar will be lecturing on the *Qur'an* in HONR 101 this Fall 2021 semester.

For more information on the Muslim Chaplain's work: <https://www.luc.edu/campusministry/faithprograms/faithtraditions/muslimchaplain/>



EVERYTHING
WILL BE OK

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

I knew the pandemic would have me spending a lot of time with myself, and I thought I was okay with that. I didn't anticipate that I would have to come to terms with my own thoughts, too. I think we all found ourselves in some darker places during those first few months. I lost person-to-person contact with all of my friends, as we all did, and I found Zoom and Facetime calls exhausting. I found life to be exhausting. Students and professors alike were fumbling, trying to establish some sort of order within the last few weeks of the semester. I didn't realize that the chaotic fumbling of my classes was order. The last week of classes and finals weren't the normal weight off my shoulders. Instead, I was saying goodbye to the last bit of routine I had desperately been clinging to.

Depression had me in a chokehold last summer. I remember trying to bottle up every outing I had and storing it away. I wanted to keep that feeling of the breeze and sun on my skin in my mind forever, to keep coming back to it when I felt alone. Which was most of the time.

That left me with my own thoughts so often that I came to realize I'm a performer. I perform for people, and the pandemic left me without people to perform for. It took performing for no one but myself to realize that there is very little I have done for myself. That should change. I think it's what I deserve.

- Rachel Dressler

STUDENT REFLECTIONS ON THE PANDEMIC

“Covid Chronicles”

My name is Ryan Walsh,
Last year, I gave my manifesto.
This year I've summoned you
here to come in and hear the resto.

Still single like a monocle,
But a rap wizard like McGonagall.
And since the skies don't seem so tropical,
This rhyme's 'bout to get topical.

Since I'm confined,
Have to sit online,
At my home,
Might have to get my diploma,
As a virtual graduate,
I'm glad to spit.
You don't know the half of it.

You've heard it all on the news,
The words in the virtual Church pews,
Chewing you up inside,
Viewing your screens with a sigh,
Wond'ring if it will subside.

Tourists pour into the shores of Florida,
Ignorin' the horrible health risks in store
'N the torrents of warnings.

We need to nip it in the bud,
Shut it down,
Scattering the smattering
Of public gatherings,
Happening around town.

But like a cross-country group,
These days run together,
So people can recupe,
And start to get better.

I'm in the house, but I'm not bored like Tyga,
Maybe I'd like a
Chance to cut the thick cord of society,
And live in accord with myself quietly.

But no matter how you cope,
If you think it's dope,
Or you're at the end of your rope.
You've gotta cling on to the hope,
That we will sing on as a human chorus.
Even if you want to mope, or just ignore this,
When the virus feels most unjust or despotic,
We will be freed,
Just like Joe Exotic.



HONORS FACULTY MEMBER WINS THE 2020-21 PROVOST'S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING FRESHMEN

DR. CHRISTOPHER WHIDDEN REFLECTS ON STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



The Provost's Award recognizes exemplary faculty who foster *cura personalis* (care of the whole person) in new students by providing an academically supportive, yet challenging, classroom experience. Dr. Whidden was chosen from among sixteen nominees, drawn from across the university. He has been recognized for his work during a brutally challenging year for educators and students alike.

Dr. Whidden was asked to share remarks at the [Annual Faculty Teaching Awards Ceremony](#) on May 6, 2021. In his speech, he explained that, “For eleven years now, I’ve been teaching first year students in the Honors Program. I have a great deal of respect and affection for these bright and spirited students, probably, in part, because twenty-four years ago I was one of them, at my alma mater, Wake Forest University”:

“As I begin my second decade at Loyola, I’m beginning to see what a deeply mysterious art teaching really is. At this time of year, like many professors, I receive notes and emails from graduating seniors. Often, these kind notes expressing thanks come from students who didn’t talk much in class and didn’t come to office hours. To the undiscerning eye—in this case, mine—some of these students didn’t seem particularly engaged, and I only realized after the fact that they were. The things that seniors remember from their freshman classes are not always the things that I remember. Instead of mentioning the major themes or the big ideas, I find

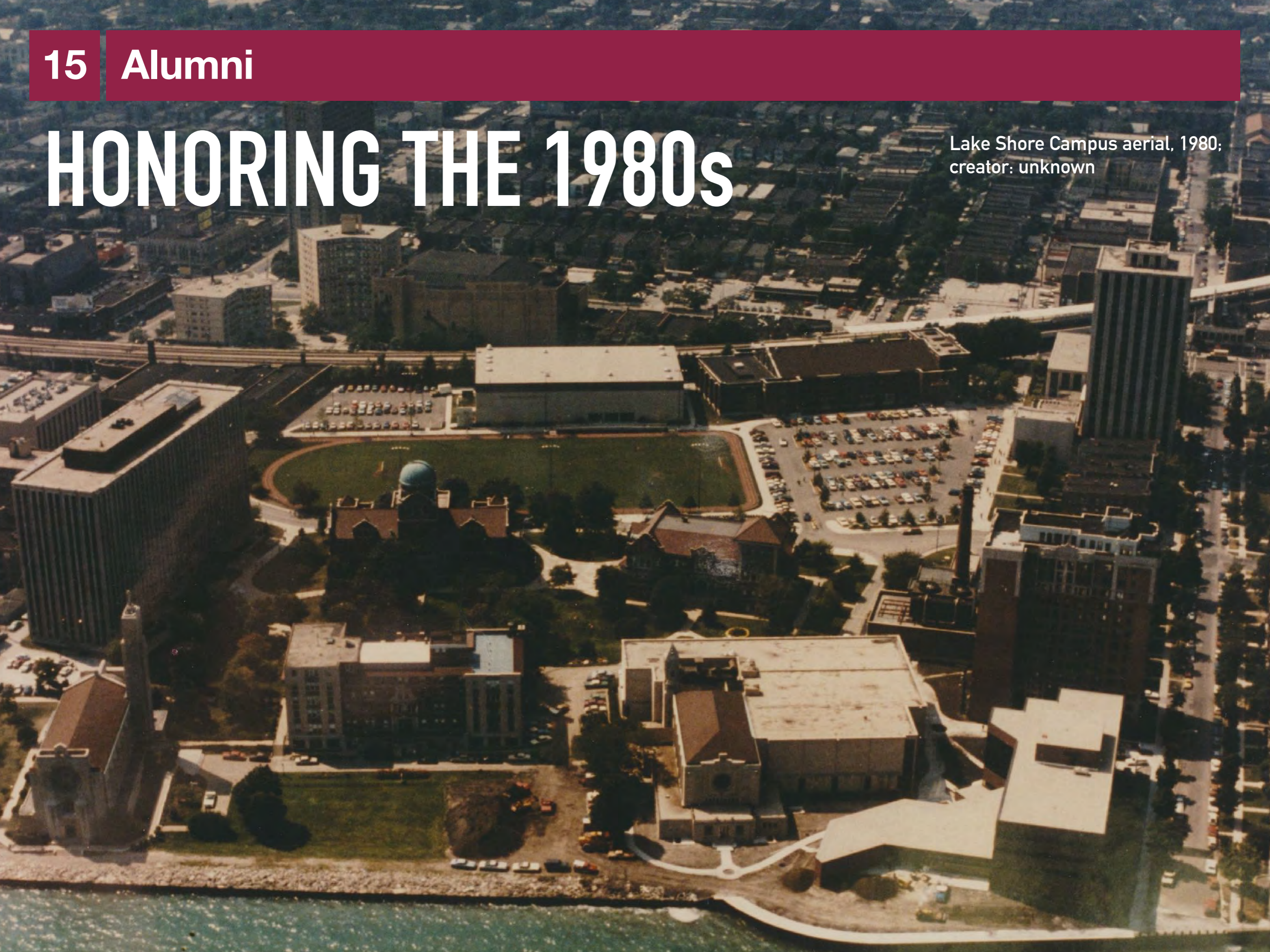
students are more likely to mention an offhand remark or a joke. As teachers, we never really know what will make an impression on our students and stick with them over time, do we?

I thought about all this while teaching on Zoom this last year. There were days when only a handful of students had their cameras on, and I was basically looking at a screen of blank boxes. I admit this was very odd and a bit disconcerting at first, but, over time, I got used to it. While I’m enough of a realist to know some of those students in the blank boxes were probably watching TikTok, I have enough faith and respect for Loyola students that I bet most of them were engaged in their own ways. Three years from now, I bet I hear from some of those blank boxes before they graduate. I bet the things they’ll mention won’t be things I can predict. Transformative education is absolutely real, though it’s also deeply mysterious. In some cases I’ve seen it. In other cases, I have faith that I haven’t.”

Congratulations and thank you, Dr. Whidden!

HONORING THE 1980s

Lake Shore Campus aerial, 1980;
creator: unknown



16 Alumni: Honoring the 1980s



David Schweickart, "Graffiti at Loyola L Stop," Loyola University Chicago Digital Special Collections, accessed July 1, 2021, <http://specialcollections.luc.edu/items/show/1306>.

“The ‘80s still matter because, either directly or indirectly, we feel culturally connected to the decade. Sure, the time period offers an escape, either to fond memories of one’s youth or to the last full decade before the internet staged a coup on our attention spans. But the seeds of where we are now really were planted back then, amidst the Glo Worms and jelly shoes.... The ‘80s has become both nostalgia rabbit hole and cultural mirror. We’ll likely be jumping down it and gazing backward into it for a long, long time.”

(Jen Chaney, “It’s 2016. Why are we still obsessed with the ‘80s?” Vulture, Oct. 24, 2016, <https://www.vulture.com/2016/10/2016-why-are-we-obsessed-with-the-80s.html>)



Image: Loyola Commencement, 1980; creator: unknown

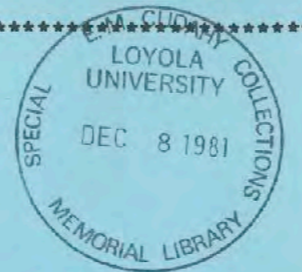
17 Alumni: Honoring the 1980s

Erudition

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOYOLA UNIVERSITY HONORS STUDENT ASSOCIATION

January, 1980

Volume 7, No. 5



FROM THE DIRECTOR

Another semester is upon us and everything feels like it is falling into a routine again. This month I'd just like to share with you some different possibilities in the pursuit of your education.

Interested in Asian Studies? Consider Kansai University in Osaka, Japan. Located near the ancient capital cities of Nara and Kyoto, and convenient to Osaka, a modern industrial city, the University offers an educational opportunity to grow and understand another culture. The courses are, of course, taught in English. The cost is comparable to that of Loyola.

If Japan is too far away, how about the Rome Center, or England, or even the Maine coast this summer? Interested in the possibilities? Stop by the Office and we can discuss the matter further.

Dr. Thomas Ranck

ATTENTION SENIORS! PLEASE REPORT ANY ACCEPTANCES TO GRADUATE SCHOOLS TO THE HONORS OFFICE, DH 240.

NAME- _____

SCHOOLS
ACCEPTED TO _____

SCHOOLS
APPLIED TO _____

James S. Gregory has been accepted to Rush Medical College. Congratulations Jim!

NEWSBRIEFS

(Not to be confused with channel 7)

Interested in old bones? There will be an Honors-sponsored lecture on archaeology given by Ms. Essenpries on March 19. More details in the next edition of Erudition.

Don't forget! Vote for your favorite Honors faculty member and senior of the year by Wednesday, January 23. Barb is collecting the ballots in the Honors Office.

Get some exercise! Join our intramural co-rec basketball team. All interested members contact Rich Hayek, our coach and fearless leader.

PARTY You're invited to an H.S.A. Lounge Party from 11:30 until 2:30 on Friday, Feb. 1. Drinks will be provided but bring your own junk food. Come and join the fun, and get to know the new members.

Don't throw away those old books! Donate them to the lounge library and/or upcoming book sale. The sale begins Feb., so please bring the books to the lounge as soon as possible. (We also are accepting texts for this semester's classes that you have purchased but do not intend to read.)

HELP WANTED Someone with artistic talent who would like to design this year's dinner-dance program. If interested, please contact Marc Gerdisch or Helen Minciotti immediately, if not sooner.

Anyone who would like to plan lectures, and in particular, a MUSICAL THEATRE SYMPOSIUM on April 16, please contact Fran Dolan or Clare Brandys.

Corrections and additions to the Honors Directory will appear in the next edition of Erudition. Copies of the directory are still available in the lounge.

18 Alumni: Honoring the 1980s

ALUMNI PERSPECTIVES

TOM PURCELL (HON BA '85), "THE LATE SHOW WITH STEPHEN COLBERT" EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

I don't recall signing up to be in Loyola Honors, which is not surprising since the decision was made by an anxious 18 year-old 40 years ago. I've never been a joiner and was even less so then, but I am sure that I must have done something because universities don't generally break in, put a bag over your head, and forcibly enroll you in their Honors program.

But in the summer of 1981, I found myself at an Honors orientation, where I met my first college friend, Stuart Shea, a fellow faculty brat.

Later in the summer I went on an Honors retreat with a group of very nice people, with whom I had absolutely nothing in common. For the most part they seemed socially-comfortable, popular pre-Med students. I, on the other hand, was a self-conscious, undeclared major who had forgotten to bring a comb. The only thing I really remember is that I had to comb my hair with a toothbrush. I didn't make a great first impression.

After that, I stayed on the periphery of the Honors program, mostly to drink at their parties, which I seem to recall took place in some basement somewhere. Also, a group of us won the school-wide college bowl quiz contest my Junior year. Looking back, the highlight was the program's exclusive one-credit hour symposiums – in-depth studies on single works with a grad school intensity. Also, to get the Honors degree, I had to write a lot of extra papers. At the time, I thought this may have been a mistake. I was working two jobs,



Purcell, left, works with the show's writers to polish Stephen Colbert's material. (PHOTO: SCOTT KOWALCHYK/CBS) Read more: <https://www.luc.edu/features/stories/alumni/tompurcell/>. Watch Purcell and Colbert discuss HGTV's "Murder House Flip": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mSjBH5kTw0>.

editing the literary magazine, and going through a very time-intensive nervous breakdown. But these papers forced me to learn how to cram a lot of information into my head very quickly and then spit it out in a compelling, conversational way. It's a skill that I still use to this day. In fact, the first person to suggest that I pursue a career in writing was my "Physics for Poets" professor, Dr. Mallow. He read my Honors paper on the lack of feasibility for Fusion reactors and found it both compelling and breezy to read.

So while I don't remember choosing the Honors program, and I can't say it dominated my Loyola experience, it was integral to me navigating the awful transition from confused undeclared major to starving artist to professional writer. I am very grateful.

19 Alumni: Honoring the 1980s



FACULTY PERSPECTIVES

DR. JOYCE WEXLER, PROFESSOR EMERITUS OF ENGLISH AND FORMER DIRECTOR OF THE HONORS PROGRAM, 1986–2008

If you had been admitted to the Honors Program in the 1980s, you'd be getting ready for the fall retreat now. Two days before other students moved into the residence halls, a school bus took incoming Honors students to Villa Desiderata, a retreat house in Pistakee Bay, IL. It was rumored to have been built by bootleggers in the 1920s as a summer getaway, adorned with a pool, a terrace, and a dock. It still had these amenities in the 80s, but the vibe was more rehab facility than roaring 20s. Uplifting mottos were painted on the bedroom walls. Returning students led ice-breakers, and

professors gave talks about their fields. Friendships formed at the retreat continued beyond graduation. As the Honors Program grew, we needed more space. Eventually we realized that Lake Michigan was a great site, and we held our retreats on the lawn at Lake Shore Campus where the Information Commons now stands. Returning students conducted Chicago tours on the El, and we had lunch at the Heartland Cafe, a Rogers Park landmark demolished in 2019. Each fall the Honors Student Association sponsored a dance that was open to all students. The HSA qualified for special event funding, and one year a group of students brought Jane Goodall to campus.

The academic structure of the Honors Program was much different. Students had to complete a certain number of honors credits by taking special sections of courses or by “contracting” to do extra work for honors credit, and they had to pass an oral exam. They were recognized at an Honors Night ceremony the day before Commencement, and a graduating Honors student gave a speech on behalf of the class. As the program grew from about 100 students to its current size (over 1,200), four professors collaborated to propose the Interdisciplinary Honors Program. “Interdisciplinary” can be defined several ways; we tried to be interdisciplinary by creating courses that were team-taught by instructors from different disciplines. The new program was designed to give all honors students a common foundation in core areas. Students learned how to ask critical questions, evaluate evidence, and write cogently. These skills required rigorous mentors, and the professors in the program knew that the students we admitted were up to the challenge. In course evaluations students often said, “This was the hardest course I ever took—and the best.” The Honors Degree became a widely respected credential.

20 Alumni: Honoring the 1980s



Above: Students work on an experiment in the Chemistry Department, ca. 1980s; creator: unknown

Below: The new Edward Crown Center for the Humanities is completed in 1983; creator: unknown



Above: The Art Department, ca. 1980s, creator: Mundelein College

The Main Stream

A Publication of the Loyola University Honors Program at Water Tower Campus

Volume 1, No. 1 - August, 1984



Welcome to the first issue of Loyola University Honors Program's (WTC) newsletter, which we hope will expand into a literary magazine featuring works from various majors. As students with different interests and fortes, we can work together to combine our talents so that we can learn from each other. *The Main Stream* is one area of the Honors Program that can serve as a docking point for our combined channels of interest.

Based at the Water Tower Campus, *The Main Stream* is also a way of uniting a primarily commuter student population. The title represents our ideas flowing together like a great body of water—engulfing vast areas of land. Thus, through the means of writing, which flows into all majors, the varied curriculum of Loyola University can be united within a single publication.

If you wish to submit poetry, short essays and articles, artwork, and/or literary criticism, feel free to do so. Also, if you have read an article which may be of interest to other students and faculty members, please share it with us. Your opinions and suggestions are strongly encouraged.

Lucia Mauro
Editor

“HEAR YE, HEAR YE” . . . UPCOMING HONORS EVENTS:

Please Join Us for Breakfast!

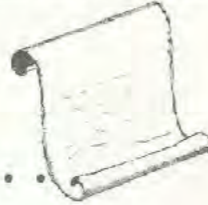
The Loyola University Honors Program “Welcoming Days” for all members will be held on Thursday, August 30 and Friday, August 31 from 8 A.M. until Noon in the Honors Common Room (SH-111). This is a fine opportunity to meet our new director and new members as well as to reacquaint ourselves with the students we have not seen over the summer.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST!

Dedication

We wish to dedicate our first issue of *The Main Stream* to the late Rev. J.E. Festle, S.J., who greatly encouraged students and promoted the many rewards and opportunities that are possible as the result of a liberal education.

Letter from the President . . .



Dear Friends,

Next month, each of us will be preparing for a new semester that holds the promise of academic success, the challenges of meeting new people, and the joys of seeing oneself create a more fulfilling lifestyle. Toward the achievement of these goals of the Honors Program, we have elected a fine body of officers and have welcomed a highly innovative director. Together, all of these people working in cooperation with Dean Werhane promises to be a very productive and exciting semester for all. The only likely reason for a poor program will be a lack of will. We, therefore, must try to participate in whatever way we can to make this program a very big success. If there is something that you would like to do, please write it down on the enclosed questionnaire.

Dean Werhane and Dr. Wexler have been wanting some new ideas, so please think about those activities you wanted to pursue, but never had the time or the energy to undertake them. This may be the time when you will see those ideas become a reality. Some activities, which are currently underway, are: the redecoration of the Honors Common Room (Siedenburg 111), preparation of this first issue of *The Main Stream*, tentative selection of the Honors Teachers for the spring, and planning for an Honors Breakfast in the beginning of the school year. If any of those activities mentioned in the questionnaire interests you, and you would like to volunteer some of your time, please contact one of the officers or Dr. Wexler.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Yours truly,
Chuck Abraham



Above: Student using library card catalogue, 1987; creator: unknown

Below: Mascot “Rambler Bo,” 1982; creator: unknown



Update your contact information:

<https://www.alumni.luc.edu/s/1548/alumni/index.aspx?sid=1548&gid=2&pgid=669>

PARTICIPATE

Contribute stories and photos to the Honors Magazine
Contact Prof. Strain (vstrain@luc.edu)

Purchase a 2021-22 Honors Sweatshirt
Contact the HSA (hsa.luc@gmail.com) to find out how.

Alumni Awards

<https://www.alumni.luc.edu/s/1548/alumni/index.aspx?sid=1548&gid=2&pgid=3948>

Alumni Weekend

<https://www.luc.edu/alumniweekend/>

Events Calendar

<https://www.alumni.luc.edu/s/1548/alumni/social.aspx?sid=1548&gid=2&pgid=401>

Service Opportunities

<https://www.alumni.luc.edu/s/1548/alumni/social.aspx?sid=1548&gid=2&pgid=2620>

Retreats

<https://www.alumni.luc.edu/s/1548/alumni/social.aspx?sid=1548&gid=2&pgid=3276>

Loyola Travels

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To contribute news items, student or alumni stories, features, photos, or original artwork to the Honors Magazine, please contact Prof. Strain: vstrain@luc.edu.