

The Buzz of Baltimore's Caffeine Scene

A first-hand guide to Charm City's best coffee

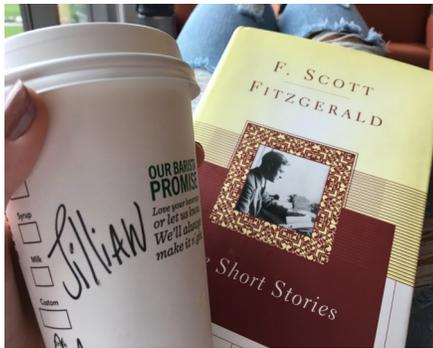
By Jillian Fury



One thing all college students can agree on is that getting through a week of classes, buckling down for midterms, or writing a research paper all take some serious energy. And what better way to find energy than a good cup of coffee? At home, I couldn't drive five minutes without coming across a Dunkin' Donuts, Starbucks, or some local spot serving java and donuts from morning to night. Luckily, upon coming to Loyola, I found it easy to get my caffeine fix thanks to the great coffee spots on and around campus. For me, finding new coffee places was my own unique way of delving into the unique neighborhoods of Charm City.

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Starbucks



Coffee and college students go together like fall and football (heads up, you won't find this at Loyola), which is why the line for the Starbucks in the student center is often overflowing. While it's somewhat underwhelming and arguably overpriced, there's something about Starbucks that can make anyone's day. I've always thought of myself as a Dunkin' girl (strawberry frosted donuts and iced coffee have my heart), but you can't beat the convenience of Starbs. Something to make it more convenient? Download Tapingo. Do it. Right now. Tapingo is an app which allows you to order food or drinks ahead of time, skip the long line, and pick up your treat on route to class or clubs or the FAC. Tapingo comes in clutch when you're craving coffee; it's a necessity here at Loyola.

The Evergreen



Another place close to campus to check out is the Evergreen Café on East Cold Spring. It's a bit of a hike from the east side of campus, but for those in Campion or even Hopkins, it's super close and convenient. Another advantage is that you can use your Evergreen card here. The Evergreen is an awesome place to order a coffee and get some work done, either alone or with a study group. You'll find coffee shop classics like bagels, pastries, tea, and of course plenty of joe. The Evergreen is a quiet, cozy, dependable little spot. As a bonus, you'll find a free library filled with books from the community. Whether you're lucky enough to find a book you need for class or you just pick up an interesting read, this is a neat feature!

Artifact Coffee



Geared towards millennials is the well known and loved Artifact Coffee. With a variety of mouth-watering, homemade pastries, your cup of coffee will not be alone. Under the same ownership as Baltimore's Woodberry Kitchen, Artifact is a great place to grab lunch, too! But seriously, they know coffee over at Artifact. In the small, brick-walled shop, drinking, tasting, and experiencing coffee is an art, and "baristas try to help newbies discern the subtle flavors and characteristics of various coffees" (Aubrey). Another attractive thing about Artifact its location; it's not too far from campus, just a ten-minute drive, and the area is filled with artisans and local businesses. This is definitely a cool area to check out on a Saturday morning, so stop in and get your fix soon!

Dooby's

Dooby's. You've probably never heard of it, unless you're a Charm City native, but this coffee bar will definitely impress itself upon you once you enter its doors. Found in Mount Vernon, this newer restaurant specializes in delicious breakfasts, innovative coffee creations, and (surprise!) Korean inspired lunch and dinner dishes. Just how good is the food? In the words of *Baltimore Sun* writer Richard Gorelick, "We wanted everything, we ordered everything, and we liked everything." For any self-proclaimed "hipsters," this is your spot. You'll find a community counter, a plethora of nooks to sit, and unique eats. Dooby's is about a ten-minute drive from campus, but once your Uber or Lyft drops you off, you'll want to stay for hours. I'd recommend Dooby's as a great weekend, or weekday, spot to migrate to with your friends and forget about school for a bit and appreciate fellow your coffee lovers, the quirky décor, and the bustling sounds of a local coffeehouse. I can't wait to return.

Order and Chaos

A favorite spot of mine is Order & Chaos Coffee. This newer restaurant is 20 minutes from campus and is part of a community of local and chain businesses, which makes for an interesting area to explore. Of course, you'll want an iced coffee and "walking waffle" in hand if this is your game plan. And trust me, you need the waffle. Order & Chaos has reinvented one of the best breakfast foods, and possibly made it better. The treats are made on the spot, smothered in your toppings of choice, and slipped into a sleeve for your portable enjoyment. A plain waffle itself is sweet and decadent, but topped with peanut butter and bananas? That's a game changer. Of course, you don't have to follow the rules and take your breakfast to go; Order & Chaos is another great spot to sit down and hit the books. Upstairs, you'll find a spacious room filled with chairs and tables and lined with whiteboards for studying. If you decide to stick around, you can get free refills on a cup of hot coffee. Three bucks for unlimited coffee and an inspiring environment is an unbeatable deal, if you ask me. I promise, you won't be disappointed.



Diablo Donuts

I've saved the sweetest for last. Technically, Diablo Donuts isn't a coffee shop, but they do serve Zeke's coffee, a local Baltimore bean brewery, so we'll say it counts. An unassuming hole in the wall, finding yourself in Diablo's is like finding a hidden treasure. Stop in this little shop, which turns into a pizza joint in the afternoon and evening, and you'll find the following donuts: S'mores, Unicorn Farts, PB&J Bomb, Maple Bacon, Crème Brûlée, and a plethora of other creations. Grab one, six, or twelve and enjoy with some Zeke's coffee! Though the sugar rush and the caffeine may be a bit overbearing, you deserve a treat and a boost!

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Hopefully this condensed guide to Baltimore's caffeine scene will be of use. Try to avoid what the dining hall considers to be "coffee," get out and experience a change of scenery from your routine Keurig brewed cup before your 9 am, do your research, and find cool new places to stop and sip! After all, you can never have too much coffee.

Aubrey, Allison. "Coffee Is The New Wine. Here's How You Taste It." NPR. NPR, 16 Aug. 2012. Accessed 03 Mar. 2017.

Gorelick, Richard. "Mount Vernon's New Dooby's Cafe Is a Winner for Dinner | Baltimore Sun Restaurant Review." *The Baltimore Sun*. 03 Jan. 2014. Accessed 03 Mar. 2017.