



## ALANA Services

Within only a couple of hours of being dropped off, I was homesick for my family. As I saw my mom drive away, every ounce in my being hoped for her to turn back around and take me home with her. I felt like I had no clue what I was doing and what was expected of me. In my new dorm room, I began to pace back and forth, stomping my feet impatiently at each end of my new "home." Already, I felt like

### What is ALANA?

ALANA stands for African, Latino, Asian and Native American. This office is committed to providing support, services and programs that facilitate the success of all ALANA students at Loyola. Through intentional programming and a myriad of services, they foster the academic, cultural, personal, spiritual and leadership development of ALANA students.

I didn't belong by the end of my first day. My heart was threatening to

burst from my ribcage. We all know that dreaded feeling of persistent panic and unremitting uneasiness that you get in the pit of your stomach when you are dropped off in a place completely foreign to you. That's how I felt.

So many of us are terrified beyond compare to step out of our armor and be exposed to the unknown. Sometimes we need to let our safety nets down and allow ourselves to be pulled out of them by strangers who might end up being very close friends later in our journeys. It is all about realizing that life is full of discomfort and nervousness. Being a first-generation college student and a woman of color at a predominately white institution, I felt anxiety coursing through my veins like it was nobody's business. *I am definitely out of my bubble*, I thought to myself. Little did I know there were more boundaries to be debunked beyond my reach, and I was yanked even more out

By Leslie Mayeregger

of my element by becoming an active member in ALANA Services.

I have been exposed to the mesmerizing colors of bright yellows, sweet oranges and electric blues that wrapped around the bodies of enchanting African folk dancers as they stomped and popped across the stage. Not to mention, through programs geared specifically towards incoming first-year students, I have been able to connect with role models, I have found my long-lost sister, and I have met other down-to-earth people who, hands down, possess the brightest smiles. Oh! And how could I forget to mention all of the delicacies drizzled in sauces or begging to be dipped in spicy and sweet concoctions, from a multitude of cultures, that made my taste buds dance.

We wouldn't grow if we didn't have the sort of drive that we gain from being thrown into new settings.

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"College will not always be easy and it will not always be kind to you but do not run away for joy often lies just below the surface of uncomfortable." -Leslie Mayeregger

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## Get Involved!



### Clubs

- Caribbean Student Union
- Association of Latin American & Spanish
- Black Student Association
- Asian Cultural Alliance



### Activities

- Carnival
- Asia Fest
- Hora De Café Con Leche
- For The Culture
- Wazobia

### Hora de Café con Leche!

This is a time for native Spanish speakers & those who wish to practice Spanish to practice/speak Spanish while discussing issues that are relevant to the Latinx community



Join us on Wednesday, February 14th  
from 12-1pm at the  
The Claver Multicultural Center (CMC)  
3rd Floor of the Andrew White Student  
Center

Our Session Topic: Social Media &  
its Progression in Latinx communities

\*All are welcome!\*

Preguntas? Email Julie Rivera at  
jrivera@loyola.edu



Persons with disabilities who may require special services should contact the Office of Disability Services at 410-617-1063 at least 48 hours prior to the event.  
For more information about this event, please contact ALANA Services at 410-617-2308.



“As a first-year student it is pretty intimidating coming into college because you look around you and people look way older than you and are older than you and you always seem to question everyone because you don't know everyone's intentions and that can be terrifying. However, the community at ALANA has a very friendly and genuine vibe to them that you won't ever second guess if someone is truly a friend or supporter.”  
-Haleema Hafeez

