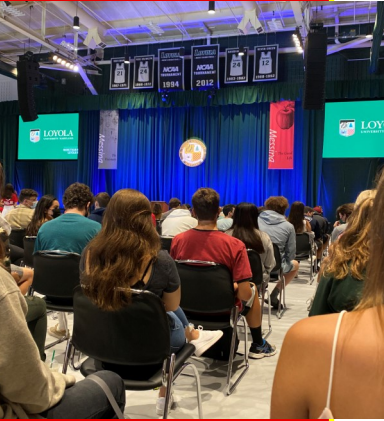
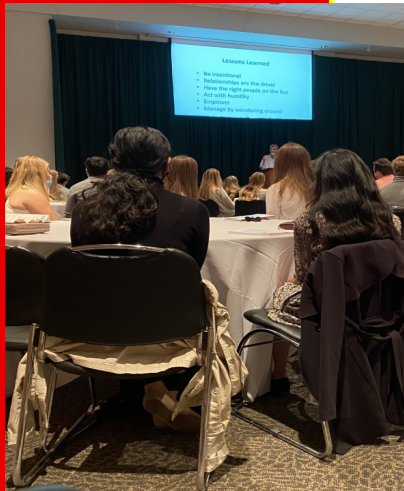


THE JOURNEY OF FINDING YOUR CALLING

The opening ceremony for
first-years in Reitz Arena



**"A good thing about
a hobby is that you
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or just remain a
subtle pleasure."**



Students attending events
with guest speakers

To Estimate a Career, Calculate a Calling

By Kayla Iwanowski

We don't get mulligans. Maybe in golf but, unfortunately, not in life. So, what can you do to get life right the first time? Well, you can always choose the career that you only pursued to please others or to make the most money. You can wake up every morning dreading going to work and going to bed thinking about all the mundane parts of your day. I would assume that's not ideal. So instead, let's find you a calling.

Here is the equation every person and their mother should use
to find their calling:

Subtle pleasures + Personal Values + Experience = Purpose

Subtle Pleasures

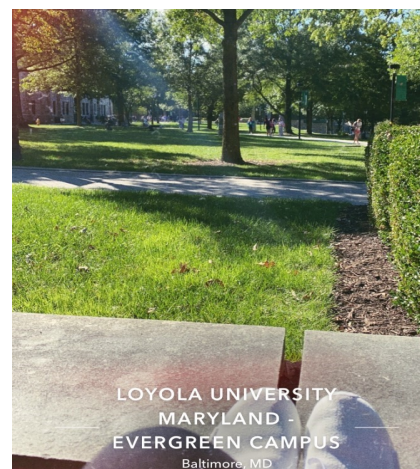
First, what do you like to do? What do you find yourself gravitating towards? What do you get sucked into doing for hours on end without time ever seeming to have started? Well, the answers I received, when I thought about this for myself, were just as expected. Listening to and playing music, traveling to other countries, sleeping, watching Netflix, and online shopping. Let me tell you, I relate well to all of these, but especially the shopping one. A good thing about a hobby is that you get to choose if it is strong enough to become a calling, or just remain a subtle pleasure. It is crucial to identify what we do for times of relaxation versus what we do out of obligation. Sometimes our pleasures overlap with talents, skills, and hobbies, ultimately leading to a closer look at a finding your calling. If you enjoy learning about new languages, reading articles about finance, or watching *Criminal Minds*, these may all be subtle indicators of a career we would want to do every day for the rest of our professional lives. We all have things we enjoy, but what combines satisfaction and excitement to create a calling?

Personal Values

Second, what makes you, you? I spoke with two students at Loyola to hear about their practices of discerning their beliefs. Evy Marquis is a junior who has determined her major of Psychology and minor in Political Science. She is pursuing the criminal law track, trailblazing her own path to become a criminal attorney. Evy states, "My strong suits are reading, writing, and public speaking – all of which are involved in my career path, but I have always considered my true assets to be my kindness, thoughtfulness, and ability to work hard. That is what makes me stand out to others."

Chris Cottone, who is currently in the application process for medical schools, is a senior at Loyola and has spent some time reflecting on his years as a biochemistry major. Chris described himself as, "a person who enjoys challenging myself. When creating my curriculum vitae, I asked my friends and family to describe me with three character traits. They all similarly stated that I was compassionate, competitive, and personable. I will take those qualities with me throughout the rest of my education and beyond." Knowing your values and traits can shape your future down a path of prosperity. As long as those qualities remain true to your core principles and personal philosophy, the calling cannot be misleading. Listen to how others describe you and how you describe yourself. You may just find your vocation in the midst of all the voices.

Image of a student resting on the patio of humanities



Experience

Thirdly, experiences can influence a person's calling. You grew up in a particular environment, with certain family and friends, and have faced uniquely different circumstances than anyone else on this planet. How have those environments and situations helped you to find a passion? Rhiannon Morris, a first-year at Loyola, was contemplating that exact question. Her response was comforting and insightful: "I don't know my calling yet. I barely know what I want for breakfast tomorrow. But, when I look back on my childhood, I see my immigrant father with an Irish accent, my strong Bostonian mother who gave birth to triplets, and I realize the impact that they've had on my life. The languages I speak, the hobbies I partake in, and the entertainment I consume all relate back to my parents' origins. Who knows, maybe that can correlate to my passion, whatever it may be."

Despite Rhiannon not yet knowing her major, she knows how her history has shaped her future. For all of us, our stories and backgrounds create more of an impact than we would ever originally think. They play a part in what our interests are or the type of company we enjoy holding. Look at your personal experiences and see if they have a correlation to what you want to do. Even if they don't, do those experiences play a role in shaping your personality? I would certainly think so.

**"What do
you want to
be
remembered
for?"**

Legacy

Just to throw in a philosophical, deep question, I asked every person I interviewed this final question: "What do you want to be remembered for?" Their answers were all different but carried a central theme: making a positive impact on others. Helping someone else, being kind to others, or fostering an environment that allows others to feel at ease. All of the interviewees had a message to share declaring,

- ⇒ "I want to be remembered for creating community" (George Miller, Associate Director of Campus Ministry)
- ⇒ "Someone who treated people kindly" (Evy Marquis, Class of 2023)
- ⇒ "A person who was always there for someone no matter the situation" (Chris Cottone, Class of 2022)
- ⇒ "Whatever I do, I want to be remembered as having helped someone find their voice and identity" (Rhiannon Morris, Class of 2025)



Beautiful fall day in the quad

You may be a music major, pursuing law, becoming a doctor, or have no idea what to major in, but that career does not effect who you become and the legacy you leave behind.

Now is the Time

Merriam Webster defines "calling" as "a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence." This impulse is not easy to find and can often take years of developing and molding to find. It is most beneficial to identify your calling, through these action steps: Ask yourself, your friends, and your family these questions listed above; pay attention to the parts of your day that make you the happiest; look at how you grew up, and how those experiences shape you into the unique individual you are. What you find will lead you to your passion, and your passion will lead you to your vocation.

There you have it! You have solved the equation. By asking yourself these questions and hearing the stories of current students, you should be able to figure out your calling... but, to be honest, that may not happen immediately. It could take more time and investigating, heck maybe even a math equation or two in order to figure out what your calling is. And that is okay! Here at Loyola, we will walk this journey with you on the way to finding it. We may not get a mulligan at the end of this life, but we sure do have plenty of resources and time to make our lives meaningful and impactful.

Now it is time to go out into the Loyola community, the Baltimore area, and the world in order to find a purpose that makes you wake up every morning, excited to take on the day, and do something that you feel compelled to do: A calling.

"Ask yourself, your friends, and your family these questions listed above; pay attention to the parts of your day that make you the happiest; look at how you grew up and how those experiences shape you into the unique individual you are."



Students walking through the quad on the way to classes that help them discover their callings