



Diverse students represented

*“Show me your
friends and I’ll
show you your
future.”*



African Americans Uplifting Each Other

Iron Sharpens Iron By Matthew Maforo

I know currently you are filled with conflicting emotions as you embark on this new journey that is college. I know I was. The day I decided I was going to attend Loyola University, I remember feeling conflicting emotions. I felt joy and sadness, excitement and anxiety, and, most of all, both the burning desire for success and the fear of failure. I felt unrivaled joy because I was finally getting the independence I had longed for, but sadness because it felt like I was alone on this new journey that was college. I felt excitement I had not felt since I entered high school because I was hopeful to find new friends but then anxiety caused me to fear being an outcast. And above all I felt a desire for success that fuels me every day but that came with a crippling fear of failure. I can imagine that you feel the same way I did. While I had all these emotions and questions of the future, I felt like I had no one to talk to. Almost like I had to figure it all out on my own. Often times at night it was like I had the weight of the world on my shoulders. I

tossed and turned at night wondering “Will I meet people just like me?” “What classes should I take?” And the thought that plagued my mind the most,” “Do I even fit in at this white school?”

With Loyola University being considered a PWI and me being a Zimbabwean young adult who was raised in Baltimore, one of my fears was the inability to meet other black people and minorities who desired success the way I did. Who listened to artists like Pooh Shiesty, and did little things like adding hot sauce to their food. The first day I stepped on campus was the day of my freshmen orientation. While I was walking on campus, I was ecstatic to see more people of color than I anticipated but it felt as if we were scattered. Then my Evergreen told me about the various organizations and clubs that were geared specifically for minorities. Later during the orientation, I saw a large group of people who looked just like me wearing bright neon T-shirts walking together laughing, supporting each other, and recruiting the incoming freshmen to join. This group was called **ALANA** (African, Latina, Asian, and Native American) and I immediately knew I wanted to be a part of their organization.

ALANA provides support and encouragement, to aid in the success of their students of color at Loyola University. Not only does the organization promote success, it emphasizes the importance of Love and kinship within the organization. As I interacted with members of the organization, I instantly felt the contagious enthusiasm each member felt, and this created a family environment that I am proud to be a part of.

Loyola University offers an abundance of clubs for minorities, and you can utilize all of these to surround yourself with like-minded individuals whose bond can last a lifetime. These clubs include ALANA, The Black Student Association, and the African Student Association. The joy I felt when I walked into a room filled with young, intelligent, black people was unmatched. The room smelled like coco butter and oil that was just used from frying chicken and the room was filled with laughter. My mind was finally at ease. All my worries felt smaller because I had people I could talk to and relate to. Suddenly I didn’t feel like the weight of the world was on my shoulders. Everyone I know who has joined one of these clubs has had a positive experience. I strongly recommend joining.