

Another warm &
sunny day on the
quad!



*"Is the juice
worth the
squeeze?"*
-Terry Sawyer

Got Talents? By Dennis McNamara

Has anyone ever told you that you have something special inside? Maybe it was after getting cut from a sports team, or after you failed to get the perfect SAT score. Whatever the shortcoming is, you can be okay knowing you have this amazing potential inside of you, right? As easy as it sounds to find your talents, the action of finding them does not always align itself at the time society expects you to be ready. Take me, for example. I'm running in college. I've been good at running my whole life, but so is everyone else around me. Do I jump ship or stay the course? That's a decision you're going to have to make regardless of the field you choose. In this case, you have chosen college, and I'm going to help you discover your talent as you enter the ranks at Loyola University Maryland.

Evergreens Strong in Numbers Strong in Spirit

First and foremost, while at Loyola, you are never alone in your journey to find your talents. Loyola makes it immediately apparent that an abundant number of resources are at your disposal and you should take advantage of them. These range from the staff, alumni, and student body, which function as a community to expose your strengths. Fortunately, as a rising freshman you will receive the greatest attention and support in using your resources properly. This begins immediately upon admission with emails to set up your accounts and classes. Before even reaching your first day of classes, you will have met your Evergreen. Evergreens are an entire group of upperclass students provided to give you guidance throughout your journey at Loyola. You will receive one Evergreen advisor who will serve as your first available resource. They have first-hand experience and are just a text away. Each Evergreen will have already decided on a major and is looking toward their futures beyond Loyola. Learning about their journeys and developed skill set can help you discover your own talents.

Working hand in hand with the Evergreens is the [Messina](#) program. Messina will provide you with two faculty members. One will be your freshman advisor and teacher who you'll see numerous times a week and who you'll meet with to discuss future course selection. They provide a great, consistent view and if you

build a relationship with them, they will have a better idea of what your interests are and possibly even help you discover your talent. The other faculty member will teach your spring course in Messina. Your staff member has an administrative role elsewhere amongst campus—mine is a part of the Career Center which we will get into later. The final piece of Messina is the other first-years who will become your classmates, peers, and friends. This unique group is a great resource to make quick relationships and compare notes to learn from each other's strengths and interests. Messina is a fantastic group exclusive to Loyola and one that you should definitely take advantage of to provide clarity on your talents.



The Humanities Building

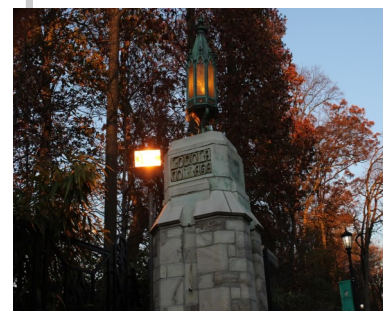
The Career Center More than a Career

While Messina is an amazing benefit for first years, your talent doesn't always manifest right away. Amaya Cunningham, a current freshman at Loyola, is still “unsure of what her talents are” and many of Messina's resources lack the individual attention many of us need to be certain we discover them. That's why we have the [Career Center](#); it's open to any grade and is perfect for helping you on your trek for talents. The Career Center often seems unnecessary to explore as a freshman. When I first arrived I often thought junior year is a good time to get started, but I was wrong. Instead, I was taught that internships start at younger ages than ever before—why would you waste two valuable years for career opportunities and, more importantly, experimenting with your interests? The Career Center is perfect for transitioning your passions into legitimate goals. Once you arrive, staff will give one-on-one attention to develop appealing resumes and cover letters. You can hash out goals for majors, internships, and career paths with an expert who has already helped hundreds before you. The Career Center can help expose your talents and direct them towards a productive end solution. With that said, this process is not one to be rushed; it requires patience and even some luck. You have years to find your talents but the key is making an active effort so the time does not go to waste. It's very easy to write something off as unhelpful and avoid it, but procrastinating this work will only give you a greater burden in the future. To be blunt, you should always be seeking out your talents because even when running into dead ends you find out what activities don't suit your skill set.

Alumni Connections

Another major source to consider on your journey to finding your talents is looking upon the experience of your peers and Alumni. Once arriving at Loyola, make friends and learn from their own talents. Talk to upper-class students who went through the same classes, professors, schedules, and dilemmas. Take advantage of alumni connections. Professor Elkes sees “connecting with alumni” as one of the most important steps to

**“who is not
courageous
enough to take
risks will
accomplish
nothing in life”
- Mohamed Ali**



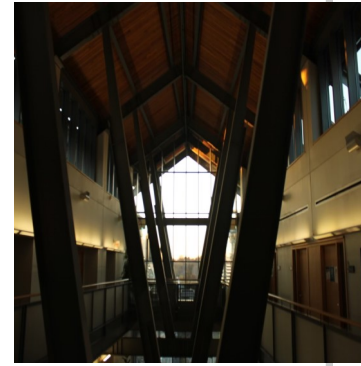
Charles St. Entrance

finding your talents and applying them to a career. In today's world of technology we have hundreds of advantages in communication. Zoom, LinkedIn, and numerous Alumni events and panels provide you with the first steps in connecting with Alumni. Zoom is a well known video platform allowing for personal or large group meetings including interviews and informational sessions. LinkedIn, however, is more like the Snap chat and Instagram for the workplace. They have millions of users across the nation filling out nearly every job description imaginable with thousands of employers and Alumni you can easily reach out to with connections, who operate in a similar way to Instagram's follow or Snapchat's adding features. Value each connection and relationship as they will allow you to explore different career paths. These relationships will create possibilities for growth that can develop four years of education into a lifetime of prosperity.

Variety Complements Specialization

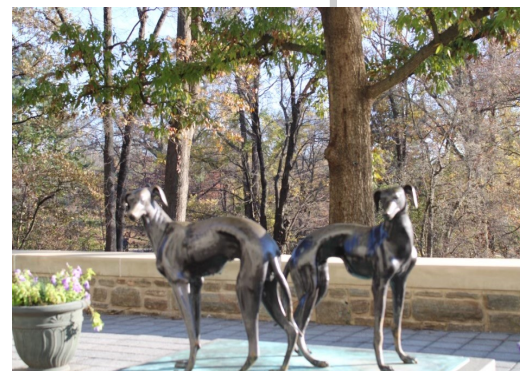
Our liberal arts education is an incredibly valuable piece of that puzzle. With Loyola being a Jesuit institution, we are opened to a diverse core of classes and values which challenge our beliefs and knowledge to develop them into finished products. All students are required to take courses in Theology, Philosophy, Math, Science, History, Language, Writing, and English. While this might seem like a daunting number of courses, look at the variety. Eight different sources of education along with electives and the different professors to teach the varying levels of each course. Camden Spring, a Junior at Loyola, built a relationship with his Financial Accounting professor and it "sparked a love for accounting." He said if it weren't for a "special relationship with that professor" he wouldn't have trusted the advice and decided on a new major. Having a variety of classes is an amazing way to explore and discover your talents, because many people discover their major-specific classes don't suit their passions or skills. Forming good honest relationships can be the stepping stones to a lifetime career. Professor Elkes, Academic Director of the Sellinger Scholars Program, believes that with the "support of her department and colleagues" they "encourage" her "to try harder on things." Enjoy the opportunities you are constantly surrounded with and attempt to learn from the different perspectives.

Loyola's class of 2026 is the largest and most diverse class in university history. The time outside the classroom is a perfect avenue to discover our rich diversity exposing yourself to new interests and especially talents. We're home to hundreds of clubs and intramurals. Our clubs range from sciences and political groups to environmen-



Fourth floor of Sellinger Hall

"If you don't believe in yourself, no one will do it for you"
-Kobe Bryant



Two Grey Hounds at the Fitness and Aquatic Center

tal or history clubs. Each poses a new experience and another shot at finding your talent.

The Timing of Talents

At the end of the day, each person's experience is unique. Some decide on their life's passion as young as childhood. Bella Coleman, a sophomore at Loyola, discovered her "eye for fashion" as a little kid. When she was younger, her mother gave her the ability to "to seek out her passions allowing her to find interest in fashion." While Bella is only a sophomore in college, she still had years to develop her interest in shopping and finding her own style. Even once here she had to adapt her interest to fit a marketing major, as fashion isn't offered to her. In reflecting on her decisions, Bella suggests to "figure out what you really like and talk to people about it." Others find their talents during their college careers here at Loyola. Camden says, "originally I came to Loyola as an engineering major"; he later switched to an accounting major because he felt "engineering was being chosen for me" whereas accounting was "doing something I enjoyed," again highlighting the value of your own opinion. People throughout your life can guide you but the decisions always come down to you. Even though Camden made the decision, he received great guidance through his professors here. Loyola's resources made his transition to another major seamless and gave him the opportunity to pursue a career he is passionate about. College is a fantastic place to discover your talents and we have a plethora of ways to do that, but if you're still worried about finding your own there are a few final thoughts to take into account. Professor Elkes wisdom explains that "you don't know what path is going to take you to where you belong" and "that path is a long and winding road" which summarizes a few key points in discovering your talents. Not only is it important to continue to try new things but don't be discouraged if they don't work out right away. Professor Elkes identified her talent later in life working with students. She "only found that out 15 years ago after being in the business world for 13 years" before I "felt I had a talent," but, being humble, she felt her talents only became apparent to her when she "was told" by "someone who would recognize talent when they saw it." Her journey speaks to the resilience required to find what you truly love and enjoy. All three of these examples took time and consideration, but even if mistakes were made, continuing to try new things eventually led them to the right path. As you perfect your own talents, have patience and enjoy the journey.



The Fernandez Center

***"I took the
road less
traveled by,
and that has
made all the
difference"***

***-Robert
Frost***



Back Entrance to Sellinger Hall