

A CELEBRATION OF STUDENTS: ACHIEVEMENT, SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE WORKS

# Excellence Awards Ceremony

The ceremony will begin in a few minutes



**LOYOLA**  
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO



# **WELCOME**

**Keaira Williams and Alexandra Brist**

**Maroon & Gold Society Members**

# Thank You – Student Quartet

Joey Daso

Aaron Freedman

Axel Juárez

# Land Acknowledgement Statement

The Loyola University Chicago community acknowledges its location on the ancestral homelands of the Council of the Three Fires (the Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes). We recognize the tragic legacy of colonization and genocide that still impacts Native American lives today. As a Jesuit university, we recognize our responsibility to understand, teach, and respect the past and present realities of local Native Americans and their continued connection to this land.

# Opening Reflection

Fr. Tho Vu, S.J.

Chaplain

# OPENING REMARKS

**Shannon Howes, PhD**

Director for Assessment & Assistant to the Vice President  
for Student Development

# Intercollegiate Athletics Award

**Kristen Rusbarsky**

Assistant Director, Business and Finance, Athletics  
and

**Jim Osowski**

Vice President at PNC, Illinois



# PNC Achiever

The *PNC Achiever* award is presented to deserving student-athletes who display well-rounded achievement through leadership in the classroom, in the community, and in competition.



# **Samantha Galanopoulos**

**PNC Achiever Award  
Female Student Athlete**



# Sam Galanopoulos

Sam Galanopoulos was the backbone of the 2023-24 Women's Basketball team, not only leading the team in minutes, assists, field goals made, 3-point percentage, and scoring, but also helping the team to their first A10 Tournament victory. She ends her time with the Maroon and Gold as a team captain, starting 79 consecutive games, leading LUC in assists for the past three seasons, and surpassing 1,000 career points, joining an elite group of Rambler student-athletes. Off the court, Sam serves as President of Loyola's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was the only student on the search board for the university's provost.

# Chris Devaney

**PNC Achiever Award  
Male Student Athlete**



# Chris Devaney

In his two years at Loyola, New Zealand native Chris Devaney helped the Ramblers Cross Country team to back-to-back A-10 conference titles in 2022 and 2023, while also taking home the individual title both years. In the most recent season, Devaney set a course record at the conference championship, now owning the 3rd fastest time in A-10 Championship history, and became an All-Academic Athlete and First Team All-American at the NCAA Cross Country Championships with a 31st place finish. Additionally, Devaney holds four top-10 times in the Loyola Track record books, owning the overall outdoor 10k record and ranking second in the indoor 5k.

# Arrupe College 2015 Award

**Dr. Jennifer Boyle, PhD**

Senior Associate Dean, Academic Affairs and Director of  
Operations, Arrupe College

and

**David Keys**

Associate Dean for Student Success, Arrupe College

# Arrupe College 2015

The *Arrupe College 2015* award is presented to a student who embodies the spirit of transformative education in our institution, who has used their gifts and talents to be successful, and who has contributed significantly to building and advancing the Arrupe College mission.

# Elizabeth Onofre

## Arrupe College 2015 Award Recipient





# Elizabeth Onofre

Elizabeth's commitment to education, community, and social justice makes her stand out as the recipient of the Arrupe 2015 Award. Elizabeth maintains a 4.0 GPA while cultivating belonging at Arrupe College through her leadership as President of both the Graphic Novel Club, and the Dreamers and Allies Student Organization (DASO). Elizabeth is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, a finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship and a nominee to the All-USA Academic Team. Elizabeth will pursue her bachelor's degree in Computer Science with the aim of contributing professionally to equitable access to technology and a more just world.

# Spirit of Laudato si' Awards

**Megan Conway**

Program Manager

Office of Sustainability

# Spirit of Laudato si'

The *Spirit of Laudato Si' Sustainability in Service* award is presented to students for their efforts to implement sustainability on campus or in community.

The *Spirit of Laudato Si' Sustainability in Learning* award is presented to students for their efforts incorporating sustainability into their academic experience through research, publication, or coursework advancing sustainability knowledge.

# Spirit of Laudato si' Finalists



**Amy Abueg**



**Robert Beaman**



**Kian Climaco**



**Ellie DeMilt**



**Camille Talkington**

**Ellie DeMilt**

**Sustainability in Service –  
Award Recipient**



# Elizabeth "Ellie" DeMilt

Ellie DeMilt is nominated for her work as Co-President of Loyola's Food Recovery Network, as well as her role as one of the first Food Equity Coordinators for the School of Environmental Sustainability, which has allowed her to organize the recovery of almost 17,000 pounds of food from Loyola's campus, reducing waste and fighting food insecurity in the Rogers Park community.

**Amy Abueg**

**Sustainability in Learning –  
Award Recipient**



# Amy Abueg

According to her nominator, Amy Abueg lives and embodies the Catholic call to have a faith that does justice and Laudato si's call to integrate the Planet's story into the human story. In the nominator's words: "Amy excelled in an Ecospirituality course integrating this into her thinking and actions. Amy later applied for and became a student leader in Loyola's first LEAF retreat the following Fall- a retreat that incorporates Ecospirituality and faith in a community setting."



# Student Employment Awards

**Omega Cruz**

Assistant Director, Employer Relations (Student Employment)  
and

**Taylor Tillman**

Senior Career Advisor, Leadership Scholars Program  
Career Services

# Arrupe Person for Others Award

The *Arrupe Person for Others Award* is presented to a student employee who clearly serves others with a passion.

# Arrupe Person For Others Award Nominees



**Lilliana Dittrich**

Psychology Department



**Amara Grajewski**

Forging Oppurtunities for  
Refugees in America



**Rhea "V" Viswanathan**

Office For Equity &  
Compliance

# **Amara Grajewski**

**Arrupe Person for Others  
Award Recipient**



# Amara Grajewski

"Amara is a tutor in our High Impact Tutoring program and consistently ensures each student she works with is given the most individualized support, both academically and socio-emotionally. By understanding the direct relationship between student happiness in the classroom and student achievement, Amara adapts the classroom to align with the needs of the student, ensuring the space can be welcoming to everyone. As soon as Amara walks into FORA, she greets students with a huge smile and asks them how they feel. Although this may seem like a small measure, it is a crucial practice to ensure students feel a sense of belonging in their environment."

# Cura Apostolica

The *Cura Apostolica (person for the institution)* award is presented to a student employee who has demonstrated considerable care in their work tasks, commitment and attitude in promoting, developing and supporting the organization or institution where they are employed.

# Cura Apostolica Nominees



**Nathan Van Kampen**  
Forging Opportunities for  
America



**Trang Nguyen**  
Tutoring Center



**Isabella Reyes**  
Commuter Student Life

# Trang Nguyen

**Cura Apostolica Award  
Recipient**





# Trang Nguyen

"Trang goes above and beyond to ensure her contributions to the team allow for more effective and efficient processes and procedures. The phrase that can be heard the most from Trang is "What can I do next?" Trang manages schedule change requests of 120+ undergraduate peer leaders and helps monitor the email inbox to accomplish this task. Trang contributes to making more effective administrative policies. Trang works extremely hard to ensure the Tutoring Center functions at the highest level, while asking the most important questions to address complex situations to support our large staff. Trang has left a legacy that will remain for semesters to come."

# Ignatian Spirit

The *Ignatian Spirit* award is presented to the team or staff of employees who work with passion and dedication as if they live each day to “go forth and set the world on fire.”

# Ignatian Spirit Award Nominees



**Elanor Craig**  
Career Services



**Remonda Fathalla**  
Career Services



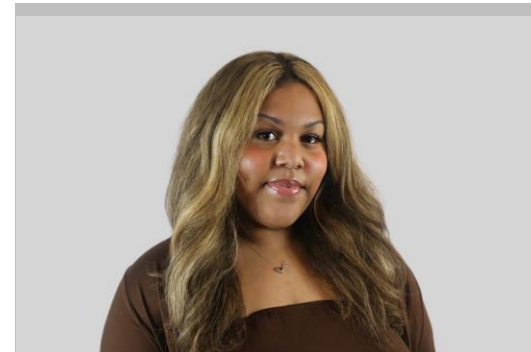
**Elyse Hall**  
Career Services



**Delaney Hayes**  
Career Services



**Aishat Iyiola**  
Career Services



**Angelina Jackson**  
Career Services

# Ignatian Spirit Award Nominees



**Janelle LeRoy**  
Career Services



**Megan McCarthy**  
Career Services



**Val Mossi**  
Career Services



**Hiba Rizvi**  
Career Services



**Erin Ryan**  
Career Services



**Caitlyn Shelley**  
Career Services

# Ignatian Spirit Award Nominees



**Vivian Klos**

Department of Programming



**Imelda Dominguez**

Department of Programming



**Sara Sadok**

Department of Programming



**Diego Capetillo**

Department of Programming

# Ignatian Spirit Award Nominees



**Serena Thakkar**

Department of Programming



**Miyah Fluery**

Department of Programming



**Jordyn McLean**

Department of Programming



**Ryan Avalos**

Department of Programming



**Camila Garica**

Department of Programming

# Ignatian Spirit Award Nominees



**Sarah Stemmler**  
Study Abroad Office



**Patrick Sheehan**  
Study Abroad Office



**Keaira Williams**  
Study Abroad Office

# Ignatian Spirit Award Recipients



**Sarah Stemmler**  
Study Abroad Office



**Patrick Sheehan**  
Study Abroad Office



**Keaira Williams**  
Study Abroad Office



# Study Abroad Ambassadors

"Our student ambassadors have a desire to set the world on fire with their passion for global awareness and advancing Loyola's promise of preparing people to live extraordinary lives through the characteristics of a Jesuit Education.

Patrick is passionately and intentionally helping our future educators expand their horizons to better support our diversifying society.

Sara has excelled dedicating her well-learned lessons and skills abroad to achieve new ideas, better solutions, and vital answers, exemplifying the *commitment to excellence* characteristic of a Jesuit education.

Keaira advocates on behalf of her peers, has shown tremendous care for students and staff, and has demonstrated leadership for her peers in the creative advertising realm."

# Core Element

The *Core Element* award is presented to students for their service and contributions to the Loyola community.

**Viktoria Barber**

**Core Element Award  
Recipient**



# Viktoria Barber

"Viktoria approaches her work with the utmost professionalism and dedication. Viktoria is motivated to make improvements in processes as well while her work reflects a high level of accuracy and knowledge. Viktoria has taken the lead on processing Payroll and HR documents (EPAF process) for over 200 student leaders who work in our office and across our multitude of residence halls. Viktoria is one of a very small number of student employees that can be given a task (with little direction) and exceed expectations in every way. Viktoria has established herself as an expert for all things payroll, finance, purchasing, and budgeting."

# Idiake Irumundomon

**Core Element Award  
Recipient**



# Idiake Irumundomon

"Dee is a natural leader. He exhibits *cura personalis* through his dedication to serving our campus community and beyond, modeling leadership, outstanding work performance, and unmatched work ethic. Dee is driven by excellence and consistently has a positive attitude no matter what the challenge. Whether it's performing administrative responsibilities like leading committee meetings and developing agendas, organizing community service projects, establishing and maintaining consistent communication with our community partners, or mentoring fellow students, Dee consistently goes above and beyond to make a positive impact on the team."

**Talissa Key**

**Core Element Award  
Recipient**



# Talissa Key

"In her multiple roles, Talissa embodies the NACE Core Competencies when providing students with the care they seek in Tutoring Center spaces. She is a welcoming and recognized face within the Tutoring Center for student workers, professional staff, and students alike. Talissa routinely solves problems of space, forgotten attendance, or emergency illness and is often the go-to for answers by her colleagues. Talissa has ease building rapport with students and staff, is a team player, and is considered by many as the "face of the TC". Talissa has become a pillar of life in the Tutoring Center and stands out as one of our most accomplished leaders."



# Student Employee of the Year

The *Student Employee of the Year* award is presented to one student employee for their outstanding contributions, achievements, and their positive impact on the university.

# **Viktoria Barber**

**Student Employee of the  
Year Award Recipient**



# Diversity Awards

**Jamie Capetillo**

Assistant Director of Leadership and Social Justice  
Center for Diversity and Inclusion  
and

**Derrick Pooyouma**

Coordinator  
Center for Diversity and Inclusion

# CDI Emerging Leader

The *CDI Emerging Leader* award is presented to a first- or second-year undergraduate student who has motivated other members of the University to strive for excellence.

This individual embraces diversity and serving humanity through learning, justice and faith. Not only is this individual constantly working to better themselves, but they are also dedicated to the growth of their peers.

**Larkin Lee**

**CDI Emerging Leader  
Award Recipient**



# Larkin Lee

Larkin Lee has been heavily involved in Community Service & Action programs. She is a Loyola4Chicago (L4C) leader and was a delegate for the 2023 Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice (IFTJ). As an L4C leader, Larkin is an active volunteer and supports the participants of her group. She supports the “doing,” the learning, and the personal growth that the L4C invites. Larkin understands that creating a just world requires advocacy. She demonstrated a commitment to justice through her IFTJ participation by joining the migration reform team and led a visit with Senator Mazie Hirono, Larkin’s home state of Hawaii representative.

# CDI Social Justice in Action

The *CDI Social Justice in Action* award is presented to a current Loyola undergraduate, graduate/professional, or Arrupe College student who has demonstrated leadership in assisting the University in responding to its commitment to diversity.

This student has worked to develop a university community that appreciates and respects all facets of diversity. This student's leadership initiatives are in the forefront of exploring issues regarding diversity and they are actively working to expand their knowledge in the service of humanity through learning, justice, and faith.

# Rhea "V" Viswanathan

**CDI Social Justice in  
Action Award Recipient**





# Rhea "V" Viswanathan

Rhea "V" is a junior, majoring in Biology, with minors in Race and Ethnicity and Women and Gender Studies. They are a returning Resident Assistant in Francis Hall, an RAI Idealist with CDI, a member of the LUC American Medical Women's Association (AMWA) PR chair, and a Gannon scholar. They are conducting an undergraduate research project funded by the LUROP social justice fellowship focusing on trans healthcare. They are hoping to attend medical school upon graduation to become an OB/GYN and begin to tackle the disparities within the healthcare system that marginalize LGBTQ+ folk and the BIPOC community.

# CDI Father Arrupe

The *CDI Father Pedro Arrupe* award is presented to a graduate/professional student that has made an outstanding contribution to their department, to students, and the Loyola community.

This individual has promoted diversity, equity, and inclusion and found an appropriate balance between their educational goals and the desires to help underrepresented population/community succeed.

**Tatum LeClair**

**CDI Father Arrupe  
Award Recipient**



# Tatum LeClair

Tatum Leclair is a 4th year PhD candidate in applied social psychology. She is a co-chair of Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education, and member of Alpha Sigma Nu. She has volunteered for the Office of Institutional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and within the psychology department, the Committee on Diversity Affairs and the Racial Justice Examen. Outside of LUC, she is a cofounder of A Safe Haven for Asians and Asian Americans. Tatum hopes to pursue a career in diversity, equity, and inclusion, and apply her expertise on the psychology of prejudice, intergroup relations, and coalition building between minorities.

# CDI Transformative Educator

The *CDI Transformative Educator* award is present a faculty member who has demonstrated a commitment to student development and has gone beyond their administrative role to address the needs and concerns of underrepresented students.

This individual provides students with the opportunities to explore issues regarding diversity, identity development, multicultural education, social justice, and leadership initiatives. This ultimately enhances the retention, matriculation, and success of historically underrepresented students.

# **Dr. Savina Balasubramanian**

**CDI Transformative  
Educator Award Recipient**



# Dr. Savina Balasubramanian

Dr. Balasubramanian's research interests include gender, sexuality, and reproduction, science, technology, health, and medicine, political and historical sociology, global and transnational sociology, race and ethnicity, law and society, sociology of social knowledge, Asia and Asian America, and qualitative methods. Her work has appeared in *Gender & Society*, *Political Power and Social Theory*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*. Dr. Balasubramanian has also received awards from the American Sociological Association and the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses and was a nominee for the prestigious Ignatius Loyola Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching.

# CDI Lifelong Commitment to Justice Award

The *CDI Lifelong Commitment to Justice* award is presented to a professional staff member who has shown a strong commitment to student development, and has gone beyond their administrative role to address the needs and concerns of underrepresented students.



# Jo Anne Walsh

**CDI Lifelong Commitment  
to Justice Award  
Recipient**



# Jo Anne Walsh

Fresh from the University of Iowa, Jo Anne joined advertising giant Young & Rubicam until later moving to Scholastic Inc. as Midwest Marketing Director developing & implementing quality “in-classroom” marketing programs. Exposure to quality education models via her children’s schools led Jo Anne to find a position in education at Loyola's Division of Student Development where she has been an Administrative Assistant for over 10 years. As she rides into the sunset of her career, Jo Anne enjoys being in a position where she can assist the quality work being done with and for our students, which you can feel the moment you step off the elevator to Damen 3rd floor.

# **Graduate, Professional, & Adult Student Awards**

**Lesley Haynes and Paige Patrick**

**Co-Presidents, Graduate, Professional, & Adult Council**

# Outstanding Student Leader

The *Outstanding Student Leader* award is presented to a graduate, professional, or adult student who has demonstrated a commitment to engagement with their fellow students through leadership. They have transcended the duties of their role and embodied the principles of Magis.

**Nina Frankovic**

**Outstanding Student  
Leader Award Finalist**



**Emma Kelley**

**Outstanding Student  
Leader Award Finalist**



**Richa Khatiwada**

**Outstanding Student  
Leader Award Finalist**



**Vanessa Mendoza**

**Outstanding Student  
Leader Award Finalist**





**Emma Kelley**

**Outstanding Student  
Leader Award Recipient**



# Emma Kelley

Emma Kelley is a fourth-year graduate student conducting research in the chemistry department. Besides her research, she is the President of the Women in STEM Council, the national intern for the Women's Chemist's Committee, and an ACS Chemistry Ambassador, in addition to many other service contributions at Loyola and beyond. Her passion for service can be seen in her work mentoring undergraduates and inspiring women to join STEM fields. She is a leader with empathy and commitment to others.

# Outstanding Graduate, Professional, & Adult Student Organization Award

The *Outstanding Graduate, Professional, & Adult Student Organization* award recognizes a student organization that is either a graduate student organization or a student organization with majority Graduate, Professional, & Adult students that promotes and embodies the organization's mission and has shown a commitment to the university's mission.

# Loyola Stands

**Outstanding Graduate,  
Professional, & Adult  
Student Organization  
Recipient**



# Loyola Stands

In the past year, Loyola Stands has spearheaded several community conversations addressing complex topics such as the intersection of domestic violence and gun violence, extreme risk protection orders, and how to stop traumatic bleeds. These conversations are held across both undergraduate and graduate campuses, engaging professionals of all backgrounds, fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. One of their most notable accomplishments and enduring traditions is the Community Advocacy and Violence Prevention Summit, organized for the past four years.

# **Maroon & Gold Society**

**Keaira Williams and Alexandra Brist**

Maroon & Gold Society Members

# Maroon & Gold Society

The *Maroon & Gold Society* recognizes rising seniors who have demonstrated a commitment to leadership, academic excellence, and service to others.

These student leaders exemplify holistic development – the fusion of the academic, the personal, the spiritual, and the character dimensions of student development.

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Esma Ajanovic**



**Adnan Aldaas**



**Matthew Andrusko**



# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Jake Gabriel Bartilad**



**Colette Benoit**



**Benjamin Bryan**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Jaimee Cibulka**



**Michael Clausen**



**Clare Cockman**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Madeline Ganshert**



**Benjamin Hofmann**



**Hannah Jaghab**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Anton Jahn-Vavrus**



**Rohan Jaiswal**



**Haaris Malik**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Elena Martinez**



**Anmol Patel**



**Nayeli Rodriguez**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Farheen Saiyed**



**Adib Shethwala**



**Gabe Smit**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Kamran Tejumola**



**Vir Trivedi**

# Maroon & Gold Society: 2024 – 2025 Cohort



**Rhea "V" Viswanathan**



**Sierra Wann**



# Damen Award

**Mark C. Reed, EdD**

President, Loyola University Chicago

**Astrid Beltrán**

Assistant Vice President for Diversity & Student Engagement

**Jim Flavin**

Director of Special Projects & Strategic Initiatives

**Will Rodriguez, PhD**

Assistant Vice President & Dean of Students

# Damen Award

The *Damen* award is presented to individuals who have been a source of inspiration to the Loyola community in the ways they have committed themselves to our Jesuit ideals.

Recipients exemplify leadership in the community, live their lives in the spirit of Loyola, and light the way for other students to follow.

**Ailynn Duarte**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Ailynn Duarte

Ailynn Duarte is a senior biology major. She serves as both a Fellow and Student Research Assistant through the prestigious Mulcahy Research Fellowship. As a student leader and volunteer in Community Service and Action's Loyola 4 Chicago program, Ailynn actively contributes at organizations such as Centro Romero. Additionally, she extends her compassion to patient care as a technician at Northwestern Medicine. Ailynn's dedication to both academic excellence and community service is further acknowledged through her receipt of the esteemed Building Community Bridges Scholarship. Her nominator stated that Ailynn is "deeply committed to her personal growth in the service of others."

**Katie Jabaay**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Katie Jabaay

Katie Jabaay is a senior psychology major. As a Provost Undergraduate Research Fellow at the Activity Matters Lab, she studies the intricacies of psychological phenomena. She has also been a Summer Research Intern at the University of Missouri. Katie is a trained Advocate with The Line, supporting students who have experienced sexual assault or harassment. Her commitment to fostering a supportive community is evident through her role as a Resident Assistant in Residence Life. Katie also serves as the president of the Loyola Bioethics Club. Katie's nominator wrote that she has "a gift for understanding issues related to social justice."

**Luke Mathews**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Luke Mathews

Luke Mathews is a senior specializing in molecular and cellular neuroscience. He volunteers as a tutor at Immanuel Lutheran Church, and is an organic chemistry Supplemental Instructor at the Tutoring Center, aiding other students academically. Luke is a Mary Rudis Research Fellow in the Department of Political Science. He also works as a Front Desk Assistant at the Center for Student Engagement, and is the treasurer of the Chess Club. Luke's nominator wrote that his "desire to serve his peers and community shows through his various involvements, on campus student employee position, and his advocacy in these organizations."



# Liam More O'Ferrall

## Damen Award Recipient



# Liam More O'Ferrall

Liam More O'Ferrall, a senior biology major, is a leader at the St. Thomas of Canterbury Soup Kitchen program, a Community Service Coordinator for the American Medical Student Association, and a Volunteer for Community Service and Action's Loyola 4 Chicago Program at Centro Romero. As co-Founder and Community Partner Coordinator of Heart for the Unhoused Chicago, Liam advocates for people who are experiencing homelessness. Liam is also the Chief of Staff for the Rambler Brotherhood Project. Liam's nominator said that he facilitates "spaces for connection and growth for other students. Liam exemplifies Magis and being a person for and with others."

**Esam Shah**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Esam Shah

A senior biology major, Esam Shah is vice president of the Muslim Student Association, as well as the treasurer for the American Medical Student Association. Esam dedicates his time to academic support as a Supplemental Instructor at the Loyola Tutoring Center. Esam contributes to scientific inquiry as a Research Assistant in Dr. Pickett's Zebrafish Lab. In addition, he is a volunteer tutor for Forging Opportunities for Refugees in America (FORA). His nominator shared that "Esam's commitment to his different organizations and leadership opportunities have helped foster a welcoming environment for students of all different backgrounds."

**Rushabh Shah**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Rushabh Shah

Rushabh Shah, a senior majoring in biology, is a volunteer leader for the Bringing Art to Life Dementia Therapy Program. He is also a member of the Loyola Community Engagement Fellowship, where he spearheaded the creation of a community garden. Rushabh serves on the Executive Board of the Rambler Brotherhood Project. Rushabh contributes to scientific inquiry as an undergraduate researcher in the Sanger Biology Lab. In addition, he is a student employee for Damen Event Services. His nominator wrote that Rushabh "lives the Jesuit mission" and said "I cannot think of a better person to receive this prestigious award."

**Rylie Steur**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Rylie Steur

Rylie Steuer, a senior majoring in psychology, is a member of the Loyola University Chicago Psychology Association. Rylie has been a Peer Advisor supporting first year students, as well as a fiscal officer for Loyolathon. Rylie's commitment to service is demonstrated through her involvement with Labre Ministry, where she engages with people who are experiencing homelessness, and her volunteer work as an International Language and Culture Instructor at Loyola's Rome Center campus. Rylie's nominator praised her for being a "well-rounded leader" who is "hardworking, dedicated, and passionate."



**Grace Tylutki**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Grace Tylutki

Grace Tylutki, a senior exercise science major, embodies a commitment to health and community. She is a student intern at the cardiopulmonary rehabilitation facility at Northwest Community Hospital in Arlington Heights, and a Group Fitness Instructor both on campus, and at Urban Athlete. Grace's leadership is recognized through her membership in the Maroon and Gold Society, and her role as a Campus Ministry Retreat Leader. Another significant role held by Grace was as a Lead Peer Advisor within the New Student Programs area. Her nominator recognized that Grace has "demonstrated an established array of skills, robust academic and programming experience."

**Alyssa Votava**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Alyssa Votava

Alyssa Votava is a senior double majoring in marketing and management. As vice president of internal affairs for Delta Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc., she fosters a supportive environment. Alyssa's leadership extends to the broader Sorority & Fraternity Life community as vice president of operations and president of the Multicultural Greek Council. Additionally, she is an Ambassador for the Center for Student Engagement. Alyssa's commitment to scholarship is recognized through her initiation into the Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society. Her nominator wrote that Alyssa "has demonstrated the Jesuit ideals of being a person for others by always supporting her peers."

**Matt Westmeyer**

**Damen Award Recipient**



# Matt Westmeyer

Matt Westmeyer, a senior majoring in secondary education and English, exemplifies dedication to education and writing. He is one of the Lead Peer Advisor in the Office of New Student Programs, as well as being a Writing Tutor, and the Advertising Committee Head at the Writing Center. Matt's pursuit of academic excellence is evident through his work as an Interdisciplinary Honors Program student. Matt's hard work is recognized by his nominator, as well as his ability to help students to "connect with communities and opportunities around campus where they feel like they can be their authentic selves."

# Closing Remarks

**Mark C. Reed, EdD**

President

Loyola University Chicago

# Excellence Awards Committee

Omega Cruz (Career Services)

Aaron Durnbaugh (Office of Sustainability)

Shannon Howes (Student Development)

David Keys (Arrupe College)

MacKenzie Rotherham (Center for Student Engagement)

Kristen Rusbarsky (Athletics)

James Thomas (Center for Diversity & Inclusion)

Keaira Williams (Maroon & Gold Society)



# Thank You

Aramark

Campus Reservations

Student Complex

Urban Agriculture Program

# Congratulations!

[LUC.edu/excellenceawards](https://luc.edu/excellenceawards)  
[excellenceawards@LUC.edu](mailto:excellenceawards@LUC.edu)



**LOYOLA**  
UNIVERSITY CHICAGO