



LOYOLA
CATHOLIC
SCHOOL

Alumni Newsletter - Fall/Winter 2024

Dear Alumni and Alumni Parents,

We hope you enjoy this latest edition of our alumni newsletter, filled with updates and stories celebrating the Loyola community. Thank you for your continued engagement and support—it truly means the world to us. As we enter this season of joy and reflection, we ask that you keep our school, students, and staff in your prayers. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and wonderful Christmas season!

Warm Regards,
Samantha Smith
Annual Giving Assistant Director

News & Events

Advancement Director Announcement

Loyola has hired a new Advancement Director, Ginger Leiferman. Ginger brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for our mission. Here, in her own words, she shares her excitement about joining our community:

Hello, my name is Ginger Leiferman, and I am excited to return to Loyola Catholic School as the Advancement Director. Reconnecting with the Loyola community and contributing to its mission is something I genuinely look forward to. Being part of something greater than myself and creating opportunities that make a difference, whether through special event fundraising or philanthropic giving, truly inspires me.



With several years of experience in non-profit event management, administrative roles, and community involvement, I am eager to bring my skills and enthusiasm to the advancement team and the broader Loyola community. As a lifelong Mankato resident, I attended Catholic elementary school and grew up in the Catholic faith. I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Communications from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

As a parent, I feel blessed that both of my adult children had the opportunity to attend Loyola Catholic School from Kindergarten through graduation. To

me, Loyola was an extension of the values we held at home, providing them with a strong foundation and a lasting relationship with Christ.

I look forward to reconnecting with familiar faces, meeting new members of the community, and sharing in our collective commitment to Loyola's mission. Please feel free to contact me at gleiferman@loyolacatholicschool.org or 507-386-5307.

Loyola Homecoming 2024

This year, alumni groups gathered at Homecoming to reconnect, share a meal, and reminisce about their days at Loyola. An alumni tent was set up near the football field, providing a welcoming space for all alumni to connect. It was the perfect way to kick off the weekend's reunion activities.

We're excited to continue offering this opportunity at future Homecoming games for alumni to meet up. If you'd like your class to be included next year, please reach out to Samantha Smith at ssmith1@loyolacatholicschool.org.

Additionally, we received a few photos from this year's reunions, which we've shared below. If you have photos you'd like to share with us, we'd love to see them!



Class of 2002: 22 years





Class of 1999: 25 years



Class of 1984: 40 years



Class of 1974: 50 years





Class of 1967: 57 years

Wired to the Heart 2024 – A Record-Breaking Success

We are thrilled to share that this year's Wired to the Heart was an unforgettable event, achieving a record-breaking net total of over \$240,000! These funds will make a significant impact on our school community, benefitting our students and supporting their educational journey.

Each year, we create a special video to highlight the heart of this event, and we're excited to share it with you! The music features vocals by our Choir Director, Brandy Gullickson, and Band Director, Jodi Bennett, with piano accompaniment by Shannon Beal. The song was carefully chosen for its meaningful lyrics, which resonate deeply with the mission of Loyola Catholic School.



Save the Date: Alumni Recognition Day

Alumni Recognition Day

Saturday, December 21, 2024

We warmly invite friends, family, and supporters of Loyola Catholic School to join us at the Fitzgerald Campus on **Saturday, December 21st** for a day full of exciting events. In addition to honoring our new Activities Hall of Fame inductees and presenting banners to our past state teams, our boys' and girls' varsity basketball teams will also be taking the court. It's a celebration you won't want to miss!

2025 Activities Hall of Fame Inductees

Dan Ireland
Dan Rotchadl '75
Steven Helget '07
Lindsey Theuninck '17
Lindsay Mamer Rozek '01
Molly Biehn Becker '00
Shane Sellner '14

Schedule of Events

8:00 AM	Alumni Basketball Tournament Fitzgerald Gym
3:30 PM	Hall of Fame Social Fitzgerald Library
5:00 PM	Hall of Fame Induction Fitzgerald Theatre
6:00 PM	Girls Varsity Basketball Game vs. St. Clair Fitzgerald Gym <ul style="list-style-type: none">Former state teams will be honored and presented with new banners during halftime.
7:30 PM	Boys Varsity Basketball Game vs. St. Clair Fitzgerald Gym <ul style="list-style-type: none">The 2025 Activities Hall of Fame Inductees will be recognized and honored at halftime.

We invite you to join us for drinks and socializing at Loose Moose Saloon immediately following the boys basketball game.

Alumni Spotlight

Doug Peterson, a member of the class of 1975, began his journey with Loyola Catholic School at Holy Rosary. His path took a historic turn in 7th grade when his class, along with the one ahead of them became the first to move into the Fitzgerald Building. He fondly recalls this transition as a pivotal moment, bringing together students from different elementary schools under the

guidance of a dedicated group of teachers, notably Sr. Dominic. Doug was inspired by the close relationships among the teachers, which radiated to students, creating a supportive and positive school culture.



An engaged student, Doug played both football and baseball, where he gained life lessons that have stayed with him. Chuckling, he recalls, “I didn’t particularly enjoy trudging up Main Street hill to make sure I got to football practice on time, but it did build character.” Beyond athletics, Doug’s Loyola experience was enriched by activities like attending sporting events, buck euchre games in the student lounge, all-school assemblies touching on moral issues, and out-of-town trips for speech and debate. Loyola shaped his sense of respect for what we learn from others and the importance of ethics and open-mindedness, all reinforced by the values instilled by a Catholic education.

Doug went on to attend Yale and Harvard Law, and later returned to Minnesota to raise a family with the love of his life, Teri (Fink), from the class of 1977. After working in private law, Doug answered a calling to public service, serving as a federal prosecutor for over a decade, handling cases that ranged from drug and violent crimes to white-collar offenses. He found it profoundly impactful, stating, “The cases that stay with me are those where I learned what leads good people to cross the line and how that impacts victims. These experiences found me appreciating the courage it takes for victims to stand up and share their stories.”

Doug’s career path was shaped by his high school experiences in speech and debate, as well as the 1973 Watergate hearings and social justice teachings grounded in Vatican II. He felt drawn to understand public policy, history, and the importance of the mission of our public institutions—interests that led him to his current role as General Counsel at the University of Minnesota.

His advice to current students? “Have the confidence that comes from knowing that everyone has instincts and insights as to what is right, what works, and how to treat others. You are valued and have much to contribute.”

Schola Endowment Highlight

Ann Bresnan Memorial Scholarship

The Ann Bresnan Memorial Scholarship stands as a testament to a mother’s unwavering commitment to Catholic education and the enduring generosity of her family. Established in 2009 by Ann’s children in her honor, the scholarship

reflects her deep gratitude to the School Sisters of Notre Dame community, who supported her after the passing of her husband while her children were still very young.

Ann's determination to provide her children with a Loyola education shaped a legacy that continues to benefit generations of students. Over the years, Ann's children and grandchildren have shown remarkable generosity, making this endowment one of the largest held by the Schola Foundation.

We wish to honor this legacy and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of Patrick Bresnan, Class of 1955, a co-founder of the endowment who recently passed away. Patrick's unwavering support for the scholarship and to Loyola Catholic School has left an everlasting mark on our community.

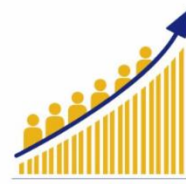


Faith in action: PreK teacher Kristin Stoffel (Class of 1996) teaching Loyola students the meaning of Advent.

Loyola by the Numbers



1:5
Nearly 1 in 5
Students
Have an
Alumni
Relative



50%
Enrollment
Increase
Since 2017

Years of Catholic
School Education
in Mankato



Faculty with 5+
Years Experience



Students
From
17

Different Communities
Attend Loyola

\$240K+

Awarded
Annually in
Scholarships



In Memoriam

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.*

Alumni

Tracey Stenzel, 1986
Patrick Hall, 1970
Robert Rasmussen, 1951
Thomas Coughlan, 1961
Harland Drumm, 1958
Shane Sellner, 2014
Joel Fasnacht, 1979
Peggy Fallenstein, 1955
Jay Franklin, 1952
Thomas Kellen, 1963
Dorothy Hiniker, 1982
John Arend, 1956
Agnes Klingel, 1944
Thomas Marka, 1952
Jean DePyper, 1963
Michael Oehle, 1963
Richard Peterson, 1970
Gladys Schmitz, 1943
Gwendolyn Thompson, 1959
Thomas Yenter, 1954
Patrick Bresnan, 1955
David Reed, 1955
John Reedy, 1963

Friends

Betty Dauffenbach
Mark Depuydt
Karen Etzell
Jerome Flanagan
Mary Lou Fink
John Getta
Gary Gintner
Pearl Gohla
Phyllis Haefner
Thomas Hager
William Hoffman
Carol Hoehn
Herbert Karpinsky
Richard Kruger
Peter Murilla
Dennis Nourie
Mary Ann Oberle
Richard Otto
Mary Ann Pongratz
John Ramy
Paul Romberg
Charles Sehe
Myron Storlien
Rose Wilson
Michele Schroeder
John Bruender
Leo Vaske
Byron Goodrich
Greg Cook
Anne Doyle

If you know of a classmate or friend of Loyola who recently died and is not listed, please let us know: advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org.

Let's Connect!

We want to know what you've been up to! Have some news to share? Know of someone you think should be featured? Please send us a note with your announcements or update your contact information.

Email: advancement@loyolacatholicschool.org

Phone: 507-386-5392

If you are interested in connecting with fellow alumni, check out the group's Facebook page with over 1,000 members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/loyolaalumni>



Loyola Catholic School | 145 Good Counsel Drive | Mankato, MN 56001 US

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