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To: staff@loyno.edu;
CC:
Subject: President's Update March 31, 2008
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Attachments:

From the Office of the President

Dear Members of the University community,

This is a season of renewal for Loyola. We are renewed by new students who choose to come to the university and by faculty members and administrators who come to make their home here.

Admissions/Enrollment:

Loyola is currently 22 percent ahead in our first-year applications for next year and has a 25 percent increase in the admitted student pool. We are also 29 percent ahead in transfer applications.

This Saturday, April 5, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., is the 11th annual President's Open House to welcome the Class of 2012. Currently, 400 students are signed up to attend. This is an increase over last year when 206 students attended. Join us in welcoming these students admitted for fall 2008 and their parents from 29 different states and three foreign countries.

We appreciate the support of the entire Loyola community, faculty, staff, and students in making this open house another successful event.

Vice President and Associate Provost for Enrollment Management

I am delighted to announce that Salvadore A. Liberto has accepted the position of vice president and associate provost for enrollment management. He will join us full time over the summer. Liberto is currently vice president for enrollment and dean of admission at Newbury College in Brookline, Mass., and is credited with having helped Newbury grow its full-time enrollment by more than 45 percent in the last five years. Throughout his career, he has held a number of important positions in the admission and enrollment area. Liberto is a native of New Orleans and a graduate of Boston College. Please join me in welcoming him to campus.

Faculty Searches:

We are searching to fill 31 faculty positions this year; 21 of which are tenure-track appointments. Of the 31 positions, seven are in the College of Humanities and Natural Sciences, 11 are in the College of Social Sciences, four are in the College of Business, six are in the College of Law, and three are in the College of Music and Fine Arts.

Renewal of New Orleans:

British mathematician, logician, and philosopher Alfred North Whitehead once remarked that the obvious is the most difficult to understand. Yet, it may be the most important. It is obvious that the context for Loyola University is New Orleans. And so it is, in many ways, difficult to separate the questions about New Orleans from the university.

It is obvious that the efforts being made to help the city's renewal are important for the renewal of the university. Essentially, the city and region provide a natural laboratory for learning, offering great opportunities for research and learning and many important efforts being made.

Clinton Global Initiative

Congratulations to students Elliot Sanchez, Nicole Kone, and Aaron Kirsch for their recognition by former President Bill Clinton in the inaugural Clinton Global Initiative University recently held at Tulane University. These students have committed to implement a microfinance service program at Loyola that will support the working poor of New Orleans. Clinton presented the three students with an outstanding commitment award for their efforts. Out of more than 600 commitments made by more than 700 students from six continents, Clinton chose nine commitments to personally point out at the conference.

The Loyola student-sponsored microfinance fund provides an opportunity for people who do not qualify for mainstream financial services with small loans to purchase income-producing assets. By giving residents small loans to recoup their assets, this program can go a long way toward alleviating poverty. The fund will provide more than 30 loans of \$100 or more over the next 18 months. The Student Government Association has committed more than \$3,000 a year to fund the program, and the President's Office will provide start-up funding.

Clinton said, "What these young people are doing is potentially very important, not only because there are plenty of people in New Orleans who can generate more wealth and income if they have a very modest amount of credit that is repayable at anything approaching an affordable rate...but also because this is not a problem that is confined here. What they are doing has potential positive application throughout the United States wherever there are people who have good ideas and low incomes and limited access to credit."

Other University Initiatives:

In addition to the work of the work of Elliot, Nicole, and Aaron, we can be proud of many other Loyola projects:

- The College of Business continues to be involved in the reorganization of the District Attorney's office.
- The College of Business is also involved in conversations with the city's Economic Development Office to place student interns in that office this spring. Also, our Small Business Development Center counselled 2,289 local businesses (71 percent existing businesses; 29 percent start-ups) during 2007, providing almost 12,000 consulting

hours.

- The College of Humanities and Natural Sciences is coordinating a writing institute; it is also working with the city on investigating Chagas disease.
- The College of Music and Fine Arts continues to assist the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra and the New Orleans Opera by providing space for rehearsals and performances as well as hosting exhibits.
- The College of Law continues its participation in rebuilding the city's justice system, assisting the Road Home Program, and serving citizens through the Law Clinic.
- Photojournalism students in the College of Social Sciences participated in a photo camp organized by *National Geographic*. Students in the Donnelley Center for Nonprofit Communications have assisted a host of neighbourhood associations and other nonprofits that are attempting to revitalize the city. Our nursing faculty has been involved with the Health Care Access Network – a group of nurses assessing post-Katrina health needs in the Hispanic community.
- Professor Mike Cowan continues to lead the Common Good initiative, which is being supported by Loyola. Common Good has brought together the nonprofit sector of the city so that those organizations will have a voice in the renewal of the city.
- Loyola has partnered with the Fox Leadership Program at the University of Pennsylvania to provide internships and opportunities from the program.
- LUCAP continues to be involved in numerous projects such as BrassRoots (a music tutoring project for middle school children), CARE (an academic tutoring program for children in Central City), Habitat for Humanity (in Slidell), Shrockin' (where our students rebuild homes in St. Bernard Parish), and Hunger Relief (which consists of bringing food and fellowship with the homeless at Ozonam Inn).
- Loyola continues to be involved in the work of the Ethics Review Board and the Office of the Inspector General. The IG and ERB have opened offices at the Federal Reserve Bank and started hiring full-time staff. The governor's recent special session of the legislature strengthened the ability of the IG and ERB to work. I am very grateful to the Loyola staff, particularly Gail Howard and the staff of the library, who have supported the ERB and IG in their fledgling days!

Please let me know of any involvements that I have missed!

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Our women's basketball team under head coach Dobe Plaisance had another historic season, advancing to the Elite Eight in the NAIA Women's Basketball National Championship Tournament in Jackson, Tenn. The appearance in the Elite Eight is the furthest the Wolfpack women have advanced in the NAIA's "Big Dance" and is the first time that a team from the state of Louisiana has made the Elite Eight in 20 years. We also eclipsed program records for wins in a season with a 28-7 mark and earned our highest ranking (No. 15) in the final NAIA national poll.

New Director of Public Affairs and External Relations

Please welcome Meredith M. Hartley who has joined Loyola as the new director of public affairs and external relations, in charge of the communications needs of the university.

Prior to this position, Hartley owned and operated a full-service marketing and public relations consulting company in Charleston, S.C., that provided marketing, public relations, promotion, copy writing, market research, and event planning services. Hartley also has extensive community outreach, crisis communications, and media relations experience in the healthcare

industry.

Important Dates to Remember

- April 2: [President's Forum](#)
- April 9-13: Reunion Weekend 2008

On April 2, at 7 p.m., the President's Forum on Current Issues and Controversies topic will be "To Protect and Serve: How Police Departments Affect the Well-Being of Communities," presented by Dr. John Alderdice of Belfast.

As one of the negotiators of the Northern Ireland peace agreement, and subsequently appointed by former British Prime Minister Blair as the founding speaker of the re-established Northern Ireland parliament, Alderdice will speak on the importance of fair and even-handed policing on community relations. He will share lessons from several countries around the world, including Northern Ireland, about the restructuring of police forces in divided communities so that they are perceived as treating all citizens fairly.

Dr. John Lord Alderdice is a member of the House of Lords and of the International Monitoring Commission that oversees the actions of all parties involved in the Belfast peace agreement that has effectively ended 30 years of political violence in Northern Ireland.

Sponsored by the President's Office, the forums are coordinated by faculty members of Loyola University and are open to the public.

[Reunion Weekend 2008](#): April 9-13

The Office of Alumni and Parent Relations has a great reunion weekend planned for our alumni April 9-13. Festivities include a golf tournament, a crawfish boil and streetcar party, alumni book signings, a presentation on 65 years of Loyola's history by the Rev. James C. Carter, S. J., a performance by the legendary Allen Toussaint, and the ever-popular New Orleans "Renewal and Recovery" bus tour by Dr. Bob Thomas. Be sure to give a big welcome back to the more than 1,000 attendees!

May 2008 Commencement Ceremonies

The University Baccalaureate Mass is scheduled for Friday, May 9, at 4 p.m., in the University Sports Complex. Commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Saturday, May 10, with the Unified Ceremony at 10 a.m., and the College of Law Ceremony at 5 p.m. Both ceremonies will take place in the Louisiana Superdome.

I am delighted to announce this year's commencement speakers. **Cathie Black**, president of Hearst Magazines, will be the commencement speaker at the Unified Ceremony, and well-known author **Scott Turow** will address the law graduates.

Cathie Black is a nationally recognized journalist and business leader. In her current position, she manages the financial performance and development of some of the industry's best-known magazines, including *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Harper's Bazaar*, and *O, the Oprah Magazine*. She made publishing history in 1979 as the first woman publisher of a weekly consumer magazine, *New York*, and is widely credited for the successes of *USA Today*.

Scott Turow is the author of seven best-selling novels including *Presumed Innocent*, *The Burden of Proof*, *Pleading Guilty*, *The Laws of Our Fathers*, *Personal Injuries*, *Reversible Errors*, and *Ordinary Heroes*. His books have won a number of literary awards, including the Heartland Prize in 2003, for *Reversible Errors*; Robert F. Kennedy Book Award in 2004, for *Ultimate Punishment*; and *Time Magazine's* Best Work of Fiction in 1999, for *Personal Injuries*. Turow has been an active partner in the Chicago office of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal, a national law firm since 1986.

This year's **honorary degree recipients** are community activist and tireless champion of the New Orleans' arts community **Adelaide Wisdom Benjamin**; principal guest conductor of the Louisiana Philharmonic Orchestra **Klauspeter Seibel**; the non-partisan, non-sectarian grassroots group **Citizens For 1 Greater New Orleans** who are a driving force for positive change and renewal in our post-Katrina environment; and commencement speaker **Cathie Black**.

Power Outage

During last week's spring break, we had a power outage on campus. As expected, our facilities staff moved quickly to address the problem. Nevertheless, this event is a strong reminder for those who have not done so to enroll in our **Emergency Alert System** by providing a cell phone number in the **Text Message Cell Number** box on the [Emergency Contact Form](#).

Closing Thoughts

This past week, we suffered the loss of one of our first-year students, Chris..... There are no words which can make sense of the tragic loss of this wonderful young man. I am very proud of the Loyola community and for the support that was shown to the Gregory family. I ask that you continue to be supportive of one another, especially Chris' friends and his brother, Colin, in this loss. I want to thank the Rev. Jim Caime, S.J., Kurt Bindenwald, and the Rev. Ted, Dziak, S.J., for their care of the Gregory family and all our students and staff during this most difficult time.

Let me close by thanking everyone, especially the faculty and staff, for your continued hard work and good will. The renewal of the university and the city would not be possible without your generosity and commitment.

With prayers,

Kevin Wm. Wildes, S.J., Ph.D.
President

31 March 2008

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