

Service Philosophy | Allen Brizee, PhD, Loyola University Maryland

My service philosophy grows out of a long and deeply held desire to help others. Whether this help emerges through my civic-focused teaching and research, or whether it emerges through service to my university, department, discipline, and community, my drive to help others guides everything that I do. Before arriving at Loyola, I was active in my church and volunteered at a food bank in Lafayette, IN. In addition, I had long since heard the call of service through instruction, having caught the teaching bug at Virginia Tech as a teaching assistant. But after arriving at Loyola, I felt a different type of desire to serve, one that grows out of the close, nurturing environment fostered by the university. As a product of public education, I was surprised at this difference. But this remarkable change has allowed me to more effectively carry out engaged scholarship, work with the community, and mentor students.

In service to the university as a member of the Engaged Scholarship Committee, I am applying my experience in civic-based teaching and research to help Loyola foster work in social justice. Focusing on social justice issues is a pillar of our institution, and I enjoy working in an interdisciplinary way with all the members of this committee to help advise the Director and Associate Director of Service-Learning. In keeping with my desire to help serve the university in positions of increasing responsibility, I have joined the Core Advising faculty. At the department level, I serve on the Curriculum Committee, and I am the department webmaster. Also, this summer I have taken over the Internship program. To contribute to my discipline, I serve as Book Review Editor for the scholarly journal, *Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society*. I also review scholarship for major publishers and major conferences in my field. As noted above, I serve as Co-Chair for the Community Literacy, Service-Learning, and Public Rhetoric Special Interest Group that meets during my field's flagship conference. Lastly, to give back to my local community, I serve my church as a member of the Communications Committee.

Loyola University Maryland

Engaged Scholarship Committee

This year, I became a member of the Engaged Scholarship Committee. During the spring semester, I assisted with the selection of the 2013 Engaged Scholar Award, and I am currently working with Bernadette Roche (Biology) and Katherine Figiel (CCSJ) on developing criteria for the Engaged Scholar Award submission and review process.

Core Advisor

This summer, I applied my experience as a Major Advisor to responsibilities as a Core Advisor. So far, I have participated in the Core Advising workshop, and in July, I will meet with students for two days to help them choose and register for the fall semester. In the fall, I will be meeting with my Core Advising students to discuss the common text, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. Also, I will be meeting with my advisees throughout the semester to help them transition to college and life away from home.

Dr. Janice (Ginny) Redish Lecture

As part of my course, WR305, Writing for the Web, and to serve my department and the university, I worked to bring a world-class scholar to campus in fall 2012. Dr. Janice (Ginny) Redish, author of our WR305 text, holds a PhD in Linguistics from Harvard University and has been a leader in human-computer interaction (usability) and technical communication for over thirty years. Dr. Redish “founded the Document Design Center at the American Institutes for Research in Washington, DC . . . set up one of the first independent usability test laboratories in North America . . . [and has worked] with private companies and government agencies as a consultant in usability and documentation.” To help bring Dr. Redish to campus, I wrote grant proposals for the Center for the Humanities and the Education for Life. I also secured funds from the Loyola Writing Center and my department. These funds totaled \$830. For her visit, I arranged for Dr. Redish to have lunch with writing students, which the students loved, and I coordinated her lecture and small reception following her talk.

The talk and reception drew around fifty attendees from different disciplines on our campus and even attracted a professor and graduate student from Towson University. One Loyola student noted that “The second part that fascinated me in Ginny’s conversation was when she showed us the letter that the wounded soldiers returning from war would get and then the difference it had after it was all cleaned up and organized. The fact that she was able to restructure the letter that much to cut the calls down so much and make the letters more organized was intriguing. Many talents she spoke of are attainable if you just put your mind to it and work at your writing skills.”

Grants for University

I will be applying for external funding for my 2014 RSNA community-based study.

Other University Activities

Care-a-Van Volunteer, Loyola University Maryland, 2010 - present.

Faculty Fellows Seminar on Service-Learning, Engaged Scholarship, 2011.

Participant, Academic Portfolio Workshop, 2011.

Writing Department*Curriculum Committee*

Since 2010, I have been a member of the department’s Curriculum Committee. I work with tenure-track/tenured faculty to plan and develop courses that meet department and university goals for serving students’ needs while fulfilling accreditation requirements. In the past three years, we have completed a substantial amount of work on revising the curriculum to match our current faculty and current writing pedagogy. For example, we have eliminated “tracks” of writing to encourage a more diverse writing student, we have revised course descriptions to align with current writing pedagogy, and we have eliminated courses that were specialized for particular faculty members. Recently, we completed a course rotation schedule.

We have also added two special topics courses, Writing for the Web and Technical Writing, to the course rotation. These classes meet student demand for writing instruction that is timely and that includes industry standard technologies and deliverables. Lastly, as Acting Chair in fall 2012, I helped the committee revise the Internship course to offer a 1-credit year-round option and a 3-credit fall semester option.

Writing Department Webmaster

My responsibilities as webmaster include updating information on the department website, posting faculty information, and current Curriculum Vitae. In the last year, I worked closely with students, faculty, the LND library archival staff, the MARCOMM web team, and creative services to completely redesign our website. This redesign incorporated a new look and feel, new pages, new pictures, and new content, such as the Service-Learning page, the Senior Sayings page, and the archives for *The Garland* and *The Forum*.

Internship Coordinator

This summer, I have taken over the Internship Coordinator position. As coordinator, I am responsible for helping students prepare their internship documents (résumé, cover letter, writing samples, submission forms) and to help them find suitable intern positions. I am also responsible for communicating with partner organizations (The *Baltimore Sun*, *Baltimore City Paper*, Enoch Pratt Free Library, etc.). In addition, I am responsible for developing relationships with new partners like ABET, which is “a nonprofit, non-governmental organization that accredits college and university programs in the disciplines of applied science, computing, engineering, and engineering technology.”¹ I have placed two students in internships, and one of these students was just hired as a full time employee at ABET.

Department Representative, Admissions Events for Writing Department

For these events, I give presentations and speak with parents and students about Loyola and our Writing Department. For Loyola Open Houses, I work with other faculty members and students to represent the Writing Department.

Department Graphic Designer

This year, I also helped produce a new department tri-fold brochure and a new flier. By working with central duplication, I saved the department hundreds of dollars in printing costs. Lastly, in an ongoing effort to be a good steward of our resources, I worked with the MMRS committee to develop the 2012-2013 MMRS poster and shuttle signs, which saved the program at least \$1,800 in printing costs.

Other Department Service

Writing Department Senator, Academic Senate, 2011.

¹ From ABET's website: <http://www.abet.org/>.

My Discipline

Review Editor Reviewer for Present Tense: A Journal of Rhetoric in Society

As review editor, I coordinate book and program reviews and work with authors on their publications for the journal: <http://www.presenttensejournal.org/>. Some of my discipline's leading scholars serve on our review board, and although the journal has only been publishing for three years, *Present Tense* already boasts articles from luminaries like Victor Villanueva.

Manuscript Reviewer for Parlor Press

As a manuscript review, I work with Parlor Press editor, David Blakesley of Clemson University, to assess scholarly submissions for publication. Recently, I reviewed *Rewriting Success in Rhetoric and Composition Careers* (2012). This edited collection features chapters written by scholars and workplace practitioners covering new directions for those in the rhetoric and composition fields.

Textbook Reviewer for Oxford University Press

As a textbook reviewer, I recently assessed and provided suggestions for *Introduction to Writing*, which is a composition textbook designed for a first year composition course. The book focuses on writing in the disciplines.

Textbook reviewer for CengageWadsworth

As a textbook reviewer, I recently assessed and provided comments for *Becoming Rhetorical: From Analysis to Production*. This manuscript is a first-year composition textbook being developed by CengageWadsworth.

Proposal Review, 2013 Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication

As a proposal reviewer, I am assessing the scholarly quality of conference proposals.

Stage One Proposal Review, 2013, 2014 CCCC

As a reviewer, I assess the scholarly quality of proposals for my field's flagship conference.

Co-Chair with Andy Furco, 2012 IARSLCE Submissions Category, Theoretical and Conceptual Frameworks, Research Designs, and Methodological Issues

As co-chair of this submission category, I recruited and worked with submission reviewers and served as the tie-breaking vote during the double-blind process.

East Central Writing Centers Association Award Selection Board, 2011

As a selection board member, I assessed the work of nominees for Tutor of the Year and Leader of the Year.

My Community

Member, Communications Committee for the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation
Over the past year, I helped the committee redesign my church's new website. In addition to providing design and content advice, I also conducted usability testing on the site: <http://wp.thecathedral.ang-md.org/>. Working with my church to help revise their website is a wonderful way to help my faith community through my experience in web writing and usability.

Civic Engagement Professor, Richnor Springs Neighborhood Association
Since spring 2011, my students and I have been working with RSNA on a number of projects, as detailed above. This service to my local community has guided both my teaching and my research. Working with Baltimore citizens, like those living in Richnor Springs, is one reason I wanted to come to Loyola. Loyola's York Road Initiative and CCSJ have been wonderful partners in this endeavor. But beyond these partnerships, the members of RSNA and the residents living in Richnor Springs have been amazing co-teachers and co-researchers, and I am looking forward to continuing my collaboration with them.