

Alumni News



Meghan Burke is leaving higher ed, and has recently started a position as DEI Advisor for WarnerMedia. They will be Professor Emerita at Illinois Wesleyan

University.



Jennifer Cossyleon gave a CURL seminar presentation titled

“The New Deal for Housing: Centering Racial Equity in Federal Housing.”

Leah Durst-Lee, graduating with a Sociology and Anthropology BA from

Loyola in 2014, will complete an MA in Advanced Migration Studies at the University of Copenhagen this spring and begin an MA in International Law and Human Rights at the United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica in the fall.

Rajelin Escondo, after graduating from UCLA with a Masters, worked at UC Berkeley for 6 years with students of color and leadership development. Before getting burnt out, they left Cal and now work at a nonprofit called Rockwood Leadership Institute where they run issues-based leadership development fellowships as a Program Manager. With their extra time they teach yoga and are starting their own wellness consulting business to support the longevity of people in movement spaces.



Yasmeen Khayr gave a CURL seminar presentation titled “Gender and Sexuality Beliefs Among Muslim Men on College

Campuses”

Lawrence Francis Loughlin graduated in 1961 from Lewis Towers. He is now age 85 and retired from the military, law enforcement, and as a social worker. He worked for 5 years as a Children's Social Worker with Los Angeles County. He is from the South side of Chicago and now resides in Culver City with his wife. They have 5 children and 12 grandchildren. His wife, Mirna Aida (Nee) Morales, is *continued on next page* from El



Molly Skjerven—UIC John Marshall Law School

Since graduating from Loyola in May 2019 with a BS in Criminal Justices & Criminology and a minor in Sociology, law school has been keeping me very busy. My first year at UIC John Marshall Law school I took the required 1L curriculum as well as a legal writing seminar focused on human rights. In that class, I got to learn the basics of legal research and apply my new writing skills to a case that was on the US Supreme Court Docket, *Hernandez v Mesa*.

I spent my summer working from home for the UIC John Marshall Fair Housing Clinic. I was assigned several client intake interviews and drafted arguments for clients who were bringing claims to the Department of Housing and Urban Development for violations of local and federal fair housing laws. As part of the seminar component of my clinic work I got to meet Dr. Kurwa at UIC, who was studying how Section 8 Housing Voucher terminations are a means of perpetuating racial segregation.

Under his guidance this past semester, I took on an independent study research project and wrote a paper examining the impact of racial stigma on housing voucher terminations in Chicago. Using research skills I had learned and developed in my sociology classes at Loyola I was able to analyze data that I had collected from the Chicago Housing Authority and explore how race impacted Housing Choice Voucher terminations. Since completing my paper, I have spent my holiday submitting it for publication and hope to continue finding ways to combine my background in Sociology with my legal education and practice.

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Salvador and so their children are bilingual and bicultural. They say the Rosary every morning.



Todd Fuist has earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Zubia Merchant, a recent graduate from the Sociology BA program, will be attending Loyola's Stritch School of Medicine this fall.

Grace Rock contributed to the report co-produced by Dr. Peter Rosenblatt predicting the impact of COVID-19 on evictions and unemployment. ["Eviction Filings, Unemployment,](#)

[and the Impact of COVID-19"](#)

Gary L. Schlesinger, B.S 1967, was named an Illinois super lawyer for the 15th year. As of May 2021, he will have been an attorney for 50 years.

Maria von Stamwitz just started school at Virginia Tech for a master's of natural resources in global sustainability. They have a Master's of Education in counseling from the University of Missouri-St. Louis, but discovered that was not the right field for them and so they went back to school!

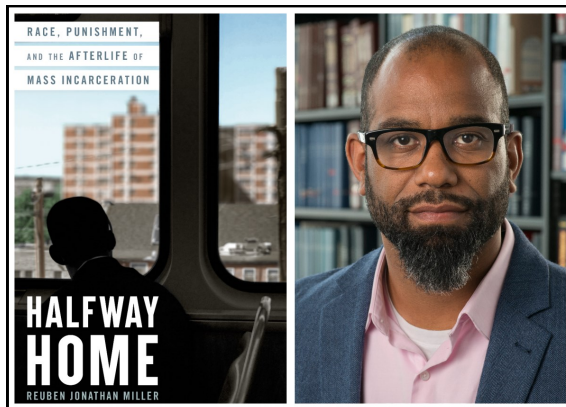
Kristin Stone, class of '86, earned their masters in accounting to implement financial systems and travel. They fondly remember Loyola and the sociology department.

Amma Taylor is now in their last year of medical school at Stritch and will be graduating in May. They are going into pediatrics and will start their residency in July of this year.



Jackie Zalewski contributed to revisions on a chapter "Work and the Economy" in *Investigating Social Problems*, which was published in

January 2021: "Work and the Economy," chapter 10 in *Investigating Social Problems* (3rd ed), A. Javier 2021.



Reuben Jonathan Miller—Halfway Home

Reuben Jonathan Miller, an alum of Loyola's Sociology PhD program, is a sociologist, criminologist and a social worker who teaches at the University of Chicago School of Social Service Administration where he studies and writes about race, democracy, and the social life of the city. He has been a member at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton New Jersey, a fellow at the New America Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, and a visiting scholar at the University of Texas at Austin and Dartmouth College. A native son of Chicago, he lives with his wife and children on the city's Southside. He recently published the book [Halfway Home](#). Check out these links for an [NPR](#) discussion and [New York Times](#) article about the book.

About the book: Each year, more than half a million Americans are released from prison and join a population of twenty million people who live with a felony record. Reuben Miller, a chaplain at the Cook County Jail in Chicago and is now a sociologist studying mass incarceration, spent years alongside prisoners, ex-prisoners, their friends, and their families to understand the life-long burden that even a single arrest can entail. What his work revealed is a simple, if overlooked truth: life after incarceration is its own form of prison. The idea that one can serve their debt and return to life as a full-fledge member of society is one of America's most nefarious myths. Recently released individuals are faced with jobs that are off-limits, apartments that cannot be occupied and votes that cannot be cast.

"As this beautifully written, stunning, and deeply painful reckoning with our nation's carceral system makes clear, we have not remotely yet grasped what drives it, nor how devastating is its reach. As Miller shows so powerfully, the damage done by this system has been so insidious, and so comprehensive, that certain Americans are always, in effect, doing time and, thus, to undo this crisis, and for most incarcerated Americans to truly ever be able to come "home," will mean doing a whole lot more work than we have yet done."—**Heather Ann Thompson, Pulitzer Prize winning author of Blood in the Water: The Attica Prison Uprising of 1971 and its Legacy**