



JSRI Supporters,

Last night, [Constance Paige Young](#) joined us on campus to share her story of resilience and healing.

Constance is a racial justice activist deeply rooted in Louisiana. She spoke of her family and the seeds of resistance that generations of Black Louisianans sowed, as well as the terror that many suffered in the ongoing struggle for justice. Constance has continued her family traditions by protesting for Black lives and counter-protesting against white-supremacy.

“I grew up in a place where the KKK had a program on public television and I wouldn’t go back to that”

Constance is also a survivor of multiple violent crimes including a violent assault in New Orleans and the racially motivated car-attack in Charlottesville, Virginia in 2017. Constance spoke of her pursuit of justice as a survivor of a crime in a legal system that is not built to protect Black women.

“I felt like the world wanted me to die and it started with forgetting my name.”

Constance spoke of feeling exposed and exploited because of the media coverage of the crime in Charlottesville. Her pain was replayed on the news and in a popular movie.

“My pain is not for public consumption or for another person’s profit”

She also spoke of her complex relationship with her identity as a survivor and her loss of personal agency.

“Trauma had become my personality. I had to protect it at all costs”

And finally, she spoke of healing and the pathway to healing others. She is a member of a radically loving community. She shared her feelings of belonging originating from her time at Loyola volunteering with LUCAP. She spoke of her classmates and the Jesuit priests who worked with her in the community.

“Everything isn’t danger and there’s beauty in letting things go”

She encouraged us to hold space for our loved ones who experience violence and to recognize that we are each on an individual healing journey,

“Our traumas are as unique to us as our fingerprints”

Today Constance shared that she feels more joy than any other time in her life. She is thriving and working on her memoir to share her powerful testimony of healing and resilience. We are proud that she is a Loyola alumni and community member and we look forward to following her as she continues to inspire others to build a radically loving community.

We also welcomed community leaders from the [Crime Survivors Guide](#) to share their resources with the Loyola community. I encourage everyone to visit their website, follow their [social media](#), and reach out for support if you or someone you love is a survivor of a crime.

Thank you to our event co-sponsors: Office of Alumni Engagement, Department of Criminology and Justice, Department of Sociology, Department of Languages and Cultures, Office of Equity and Inclusion, Loyola University Community Action Program (LUCAP)/Students Against Hyper Incarceration (SAHI), Office of Community Engaged Learning, Teaching and Scholarship (OCELTS), College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Counseling, and the Center for Editing and Publishing.

Best Wishes,

Dr. Annie Phoenix

**Executive Director
Jesuit Social Research Institute
Loyola University New Orleans**

This email was sent to . To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences

To unsubscribe from all Loyola e-newsletters please click [here](#)

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

powered by [emma](#)

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.