Students walking to the mailroom may have noticed ads for Felice's Roman Style Pizza, a restaurant that will soon open on Sheridan Road in the Granada Center building. As the ad states, Felice's will be the newest member of "Loyola University Chicago Undergraduate Student Run Enterprises." The restaurant will be run by Loyola Limited, a group that started as a master's program case study and has grown to encompass three, soon to be four, businesses.

In 2010, Loyola was planning to open a guesthouse near the Loyola Red Line station. Michael Brosko, director of capital planning, suggested that students run the business that would otherwise be managed by the university. He took his idea to the master's program in the School of Business Administration's entrepreneurship program, which then adopted it as a case study. Separate groups of students looked at the viability of undergraduate students running a business and, in the end, five out of six groups said that the students would have enough skills to start and manage the guesthouse.

The guesthouse became the Flats at Loyola Station, which has been open for one year. According to Loyola Limited CEO and senior Jonathan Ferrera, the occupancy rate is high and business is good.

After the opening of the Flats at Loyola Station, Loyola Limited was born. The group then acquired Loyola Property Management, the real estate portfolio managing; Chainlinks, a bike rental and maintenance shop; and will soon open Felice's. According to their respective websites, the companies' presidents are senior Manak Chojar of Loyola Property Management, senior Michael Bovill of the Flats and senior Spencer Schmid of Chainlinks. Senior Sean Connolly will serve as president of Felice's.

What do they, along with the other students behind these operations, do?

"I run around a lot, basically," said Ferrera, an international business major. As CEO, Ferrera meets with the presidents or other representatives from the businesses throughout the day. His duties include checking on Chainlinks' operations, looking at the occupancy rates at the Flats and keeping up with the various elements that go into starting up Felice's.

Even students who just started working at a Loyola Limited business are involved in the company and can gain new responsibilities quickly. Sophomore Christina Hernandez was hired in April of 2011 as a customer relations associate for the Flats and has just been promoted to director of customer relations.

Hernandez, double majoring in psychology and sociology, described her daily duties as "just making sure that the guests' experience before their check-in time is as smooth as possible."
Because every employee is an undergraduate student, from the CEO to the newest hire, there is pressure on the students to perform and show others that, despite their youth, they know what they're doing.

"It makes me want to work harder," Hernandez said.

Loyola Limited is sometimes the only opportunity many students have to get the amount of responsibility that employees like Ferrera and Hernandez do.

Currently employing about 30 people, Loyola Limited expects to expand to somewhere around 70 employees with the opening of Felice's. Workers will be paid an amount that is comparable to many other student jobs on campus. Additionally, many of the positions at Loyola Limited qualify as internships and can be used to earn school credit. Possible positions include working with finance, communications or web and graphic design.

"There's a lot for just about anyone," Ferrera said.

Freshman Samim Patel said she would definitely consider working for Loyola Limited.

"We live around here and you want a job that's going to be helping us for the future," the international studies major said. "It would look great on your résumé!"