



HM

HONORABLE MENTIONS

NEW BEGINNINGS: The beginning of your freshman year can be overwhelming and full of nearly too many opportunities. Although you may feel as if you're in over your head as finals come around (it'll be okay, we promise), take the time to look around and notice the beauty of our campus and city. Take advantage of this grand opportunity.

FALL 2015

A collaboration by DePaul University's Honors Program

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THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!

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HONROABLE UPDATES

REFLECTIONS ON CHANCES & COMMUNITY: A LETTER FROM THE HSG PRESIDENT

KRISTINA POULIOT SENIOR, SOCIOLOGY

All things must end. Most people who have fallen in love, attended college, or eaten an ice cream cone know this to be true. It's just a fact of life that endings and beginnings are as constant as the crash of waves upon the ocean. Even communities have endings. People are always moving in and out of communities. Last spring, our learning community known as the Honors Program said goodbye to 126 seniors as they graduated and continued on with their lives. This fall, we welcomed 239 new first-year students. Communities are constantly under the ebb and flow of change, whether gradual or not.

With these constant changes, comes the opportunity to try new things and take new chances. This new year in HSG, my officers and I have taken a few chances in leading the HSG community. We invited groups of students to participate in an art contest about what justice means to them. We set a collective Heart Walk donation goal of \$300 - and surpassed it by over \$300! We have opened up Honors Ball theme nominations to the entire community of honors students.

The beautiful thing about taking chances within communities is that you are never alone. With HSG, we have our incredible officers and General Body members to support our leaps of faith. In our Honors classes, we aim to create supportive environments where we can explore complex topics in respectful spaces. Students living in the Honors Floor have peers with whom to share their ups and downs. Life is difficult- but when we live in community, we have people to help us during rough times.

As we continue another year, I am excited to see the ways we challenge and support each other as an honors community. As a senior, I am especially excited to be truly present and enthusiastically involved with our amazing community of scholars. As you will see from the articles, reflections, essays, poems, and submissions presented in this issue of Honorable Mentions: when working in community, great things are possible.



KRISTINA POULIOT

INTERESTED IN HSG?

Meetings are held every other Friday during each academic quarter,

Send an email to honorsgov@gmail.com if you have any questions.

HONORABLE UPDATES

MEET YOUR 2015-2016 HONORS STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS!

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Honors Floor Representatives

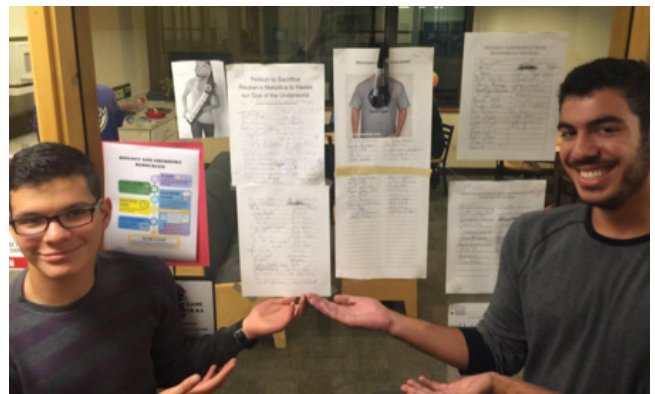
THE POWER OF A PETITION

SHIVAM CHOKSKI, EMILY MELBYE, MAGGIE OLSON, & LUCAS SKUCAS

Creating a petition to support an idea that you stand for is exciting. After all, who doesn't want their opinion heard? Aligning with basic principles of American democracy, primarily the first amendment, people have the right to voice their opinions. Some very recent petitions that have been circulated include, but are not limited to, support for the legalization of cannabis in certain states and the recognition of Muslim holidays in the American school system. Both of these are controversial issues that have hundreds of thousands of Americans supporting both sides of each one.

Here on the Honors floor of Seton Hall, we have created quite a few petitions. From purchasing t-shirts, to changing our closets into industrial French door refrigerators, and to the introduction of nap times into the curriculum, it's safe to say we have thought of everything. Freshman Jake Stout, creator of many of these petitions, says that the purpose of a petition serves as "the ultimate form of American democracy" and that they are great forms of "direct representation of the ideologies of the general public." Stout explains that these petitions can offer up "genuine change from originally very humorous ideas." The Honors Floor has really come together in a stand for some of these issues. For example, the students plan on purchasing a t-shirt with a NASA logo on it and a slogan that says "space is tight."

The students who live on the Honors floor of Seton have not only shown initiative, but also have utilized some key principles of American government. They have created an efficient way to showcase ideas and create support for their causes. We're looking forward to seeing how these turn out!



HONORS FLOOR RESIDENTS CESAR ZAVALA (L) AND JAKE STOUT (R) PROUDLY SHOW OFF THEIR PETITIONS

ORIENTATION LEADER RECAP

YASMIN MITCHEL SOPHOMORE, DRAMATURGY & CRITICISM

Transitioning to college is such a unique experience. Everyone comes with their own baggage and expectations. Yet the first true taste of DePaul University life is carefully structured, and most of us only remember it vaguely. Premiere DePaul Orientation is a necessary program that all first year college students are required to attend. Most remember it as a one and a half day experience of long presentations, weird icebreakers, and anxiety induced advising. It is almost a rite of passage. This is definitely how I remembered my Orientation, so I was less than eager to accept the position of being an Orientation Leader when I was offered it. Although the three-part interview process is extremely taxing and overwhelming, I had somehow made it through as one of the twenty-four individuals selected for the more than summer long commitment.

When I initially accepted the position to be an Orientation Leader, I was nervous that I was not doing it for the best reasons. In my first year of college, I struggled to make friends and only found true solace in doing homework, securing an income, and speaking with my professors. I tried to make connections with those my own age, but I felt like an outsider within my program in The Theatre School. Though everyone was there to pursue their passion for the arts, I was less confident in my choice of major and was unable to relate to my peers. I felt trapped in a program where everyone had a different foundation than me; it became the cliché of actors versus technical crew that divided students in high school. I struggled to get over it. I could not shake the feeling that I was so desperately trying to be a part of something that was not where I belonged. Doing well in classes seemed to be the only thing that kept me going. Well, that and a constant paycheck. As a first year student, I came into college with so many expectations. Despite the fact that I was responsible for paying for my entire education, I was determined to have a social life outside of having a job. Becoming an Orientation Leader saved me.

All the way back to Spring Training, it was clear that about every member of the team had an interest in leadership and fostering a stronger DePaul community. I was excited to see how training would shape me as a person throughout the experience. I understood that every student only experiences one Orientation, so I wanted to be the Orientation Leader I did not have. I wanted to be someone students could confide in and trust, someone that would give them sound advice. I honestly had no idea what I would gain from being on the other side of Orientation. It is so much more than parading student groups around campus, so much more than handing out meal tickets and reiterating the schedule. The Orientation Leader Team is com-

posed of twenty-four individuals who are further divided when the program begins. Half are assigned student groups, a fourth is on parent staff, and the other fourth is on administration. Talking with parents and stuffing thousands of folders are two tasks that were not necessarily dictated in our duties. Nonetheless, we rotated positions every session and persevered through situations that brought us together as a team.

There were thirteen sessions for Orientation and we were tasked with facilitating each one with an energy and a freshness that is difficult to maintain in such a demanding, variable environment. The schedules for each of the students varied only by what college they were currently enrolled in. Most groups were made up of one or two colleges, but this did not necessarily correlate to the college of the Orientation Leader; this kept us ever engaged. On top of knowing tour routes, room numbers, small group facilitations, and protocol for emergencies, we also had to be familiar with every college in the Loop and Lincoln Park. I did not realize how much I would have to study in order to be able to talk intelligently about the business school or health sciences. Despite the struggle and hardships of the program itself, it always came down to facilitating each student's experience in the best way we could.

Everyone only experiences Orientation once, so there is importance in treating every session as separate from the one before. The first session was in June and the last in September. Imagine trying to sustain the same amount of excitement and professionalism thirteen times over the course of three months, not including the hundred or so hours of training. This is where the team dynamic comes in. It is crazy how twenty-four strangers were able to become so close so quickly. We provided solace for each other. We confided in each other. We laughed, cried, lived, ate, danced, sang, worked, and breathed together. By the end of the Premiere DePaul sessions, it was not only the students who were getting increasingly more emotional; we were too. The end of summer meant more than the beginning of school. It meant we would no longer be together on such a permanent basis. We would leave new friends, strong mentors, and comfort in routine. This fact rings true to all students leaving home for the first time, but we, the Orientation Leaders, had to leave home twice.

HONORABLE UPDATES



DEPAUL DOGSPOTTING AT ITS FINEST! PHOTO BY KARLIE THORTON

VINCENTIAN VALUES INSPIRE HONORS FRESHMEN – ANIMAL ADVOCATES OF DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

PEDRO ESCOBAR FRESHMAN, MARKETING

Of the many shocks that come with making the transition from high school to college, one that doesn't attract much attention, is that of leaving your pets. Animals hold a special place in many people's hearts, and leaving a furry friend in another city or state can be heartbreaking. In answer to this problem, a few freshmen, including Honors Program students Pedro Escobar, Simon Handmaker and Sam Christenson, created a DePaul Dogspotting Facebook page. People are invited to post photos of dogs they spot around campus. It was originally meant to be just a casual page, or a joke that would eventually get tired and fizzle out, but soon, the page was attracting unprecedented attention, growing to more than 500 members in the span of a month.

The founders of the page recognized the potential of the animal-loving community at DePaul and saw an opportunity for enacting social justice. Thus, out of what was originally

an informal, semi-serious idea, sprang the Animal Advocates of DePaul club (AAD). The group plans to partner with various no-kill shelters throughout the city and establish a working relationship, to meet and discuss various forms of animal cruelty and injustice throughout the world, and to promote volunteering and social change throughout the city of Chicago, starting with DePaul's campus. While the organization is young, it has set a high standard for itself, and plans to uphold it.

To learn more, visit AAD's Facebook page at: www.facebook.com/groups/466886756831938/ You can also visit our OrgSync page at: www.orgsync.com/125399/chapter Or, to just join DePaul Dogspotting: www.facebook.com/groups/887059274681874/

HONORABLE UPDATES

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: JAMES “MONTY” MONTGOMERY

KYLE WAHE SENIOR, ECONOMICS

Despite how small we may seem in relation to the enormous world, our actions have an impact on the many different environments surrounding us. How can we manage the footprint we leave on these various environments? “Be curious,” says Dr. James Montgomery, a professor in DePaul’s Department of Environmental Science and Studies. Montgomery studied at Baylor University, where he earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees, before receiving his PhD in Soil Science from Washington State University. Although Dr. Montgomery began teaching formally at DePaul in 1992, his interest in the environment began much sooner. “[I was] the dirtiest kid on the block,” he admits that his time spent outdoors, and his involvement in Boy Scouts cultivated his excitement about being in nature.



I WANT MY STUDENTS TO HAVE AN APPRECIATION FOR THE INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF DIFFERENT REALMS”

His passion for environmental sciences as a discipline came in “fits and starts.” During his time in Pullman, WA, Dr. Montgomery learned about the relationship between the human environment and the natural environment. As he describes it, the two necessarily have a strong relationship. Despite many of the stereotypes that have surrounded environmental science and “environmentalists,” Montgomery’s dedication to the natural environment strengthened when he came to DePaul. It was here, in Chicago, that he fostered his curiosity of urban ecology. Through his involvement in various sustainability efforts on campus, his passion for “being curious” and “recognizing we are a part of nature” shines through his work at DePaul.

Towards his students, as well, Dr. Montgomery seeks to instill curiosity about the value of the environment around us.

Montgomery has taught dozens of courses at DePaul, including HON Discover: City on the Lake and HON Environmental Science. “Everything we use comes from the environment,” he states, and we need to know where our natural resources go. He speaks vividly on how soil works (“giant coffee filter”), and how removing trees from urban spaces is costly both environmentally and economically. “Soil is the foundation for our earth’s system,” Montgomery says, and there are efforts around Chicago to look at the soils in different neighborhoods.

All disciplines contribute to how we understand our impact on the environment, from science to the humanities. It is clear that Dr. Montgomery supports the holistic nature of environmental studies. He passionately claims, “I want my students to have an appreciation for the interconnectedness of different realms.” Recognizing the value in how we use resources in the environment can enhance our efforts to reduce our footprints and learn about what our changing climate means for how we interact with the world. As we continue to seek sustainable options in our daily lives, let us also remember to consider what Dr. Montgomery expresses to his students: be curious.



L TO R: HONORS PROGRAM DIRECTOR ROSE SPALDING, JAMES “MONTY” MONTGOMERY, AND ARIELLE SHAPIRO AT THE RECENT STUDENT FACULTY DINNER

HONORS EVENTS

MAUER ADDRESSES INEQUALITIES

SAM SCHWINDT SOPHOMORE, PHILOSOPHY & ANTHROPOLOGY

“In 1972, president Richard Nixon went on national TV and said the following, ‘we have a problem with crime in this country but I have a solution for it. First, I’m going to build a million new prison cells and fill them as quick as possible. Second, because we know that crimes take place in minority communities, I’m going to reserve 60% of those cells to Blacks and Latinos. Third, I’m going to put 3,000 people on death row and execute them as quickly as possible. That’s my plan for dealing with crime.’ ‘Well, really,’ Marc Mauer then stated, ‘Richard Nixon never made such a speech about prison and criminal justice reform, but that is essentially what has happened in this country in the past 40 years.’”

On October 2nd, Marc Mauer, executive director of the Sentencing Project and author of *Race to Incarcerate*, spoke to the greater DePaul University community at the Honors Program lecture on the issues of mass incarceration in the United States. Written in 1999, with a second edition published in 2006, *Race to Incarcerate* has been heralded as a seminal work decrying the tragedy of the current criminal justice system and its horrifying impact on minority communities in the United States. As executive director of the Sentencing Project since 2005, Mauer has become one of the foremost experts on race sentencing policies and disparities in the country.

The Sentencing Project has been around for 30 years, fighting for prison and criminal justice reform. The goal of the project, says Mauer, is to try to “get people outraged” at the current system. In a small-group book discussion with Honors Program students before the lecture, Mauer described the main issues in the movement for reform: “A lot of harm has come in many different ways, and the barriers that have been erected after people have been incarcerated are incredible.”

“WE NEED TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL DIALOGUE SO THAT WE TREAT EVERYONE’S KID AS IF THEY WERE OUR OWN KID. THAT’S THE CHALLENGE FOR ALL OF US TO FIGHT THIS ISSUE.”



MARC MAUER MAKES A POINT AT THE LECTERN



PROFESSOR CHRISTINA RIVERS AND MARC MAUER



“Really,” says Mauer, “it should be in everyone’s best interest to make sure that when people come home (after being incarcerated), they can successfully re-enter the community. But that’s not happening.”

Upon conclusion of his lecture, students in the room were quick to take advantage of the time left over for questions. One student in the back asked about the impact of the legalization of marijuana on the criminal justice system, and Mauer responded, “Well, there’s good news and bad news. It would not really make much of a dent, because very few people go to prison for using marijuana; it’s usually the higher level dealers.”

Before taking questions, however, Mauer ended his lecture with the following impactful statement: “we need to engage in a political dialogue and a personal dialogue so that we treat everyone’s kid as if they were our own kid. That’s the challenge for all of us to fight this issue.”

HONORS EVENTS



HEART WALK 2015

Honors students got decked out in red and blue to participate in the 2015 Heart Walk at Solider Field on September 26th. Overall, the event raised \$ 2,584,695 towards eliminating cardiovascular disease and stroke.



HONORS EVENTS



HONORS RETREAT 2015

Every year, the entire Honors Program freshman class gathers the day before classes to meet with upperclassmen, participate in a book talk, and learn more about the Honors Program before beginning their Autumn quarter. The day is followed by announcements from HSG chairs, sign ups, and an ice cream social.

HONORS EVENTS

ESSAY CONTEST

Summer 2015 marked the beginning of a new initiative for the Honors Program. An essay contest for incoming freshmen students was announced during the summer Premiere sessions. Students read Walter Dean Myers' New York Times bestseller *Monster*, and were invited to submit an essay relating to the 2015-2016 academic year's theme: "Justice for All?"

The response was overwhelming! The overall quality and depth of the submitted essays reflected the students' understanding and thoughtfulness as they considered the idea of biases that permeate the American justice system. Twelve students' essays were selected as Honorable Mentions recipients, and Hannah Manikowski was selected as the overall first place winner. Hannah's winning essay is printed in this issue of Honorable Mentions; in addition, we've included some poignant quotes from the essays that received commendations.

JUSTICE IN **MONSTER**

HANNAH MANIKOWSKI FRESHMAN, THEATRE ARTS

Walter Dean Myers' novel *Monster* explores what it means to not only be a black teenager in the U.S., but also, more specifically, what it means to be a black teenager in the U.S. who is on trial for murder. Through the sincere introspection of the novel's protagonist, Steve Harmon, the reader is confronted with the practical consequences of racial prejudice and is forced to consider how often black Americans are put "on trial" every day – and not just in the courtroom.

A primary and readily accepted tenant of the American judicial system is that the accused are considered innocent until proven guilty. However, in Steve Harmon's case, the accountability is placed on Steve and his defense fighting to prove his innocence – a direct inversion of the intended process that no one involved (with the exception of Steve) challenges or even denies. Steve's lawyer, Kathy O'Brien, goes so far as to confirm this inversion without criticism when she claims that "nothing is happening that speaks to [Steve] being innocent." She then



BACK ROW, L TO R: CAROLINE JONES, JOHANNA GUENTERT, MIKE ABRAHAM, EMILY BIEKER, ERIC DEASY, ERIC ELIA, ELLEN NOWOGROCKI, HANNAH MANIKOWSKI (1ST PLACE WINNER)
FRONT, L TO R: MACKENZIE CARLSON, MADELINE CROZIER, ALANA LADD, ELIZABETH WOODRUFF

says to Steve, in a way that is business-like to the point of being callous, "Half of those jurors, no matter what they said when we questioned them when we picked the jury, believed you were guilty the moment they laid eyes on you. You're young, you're Black, and you're on trial. What else do they need to know" (78)?

O'Brien is not alone in her indifference. Repeatedly, those who are not directly affected by the case's outcome refer to the proceedings in a way that is, at best, detached and, at worst, hostile. A guard in the courtroom refers to the trial as a "motion case" (14). Detective Karyl reminds his colleague to "hope for the best" when told the death penalty will not be used on someone so young (73). Guards at the prison even have "a pool going" and place bets on how long Steve's assumed prison sentence will be (266).

All of these individuals are able to speak from a place of privilege that is borne from their distance from the case.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

HONORS EVENTS

As evidenced by the feelings they express toward the trial, this distance and the subsequent privilege it endows is a petri dish for apathy. Because Steve's life has no direct impact on their own lives and because Steve, due to his race or his background, is not a person with whom they can relate, they do not feel compelled to extend their empathy to him. To the comfortable, often older, white outsiders, Steve becomes an idea rather than a human – an idea that is subject to dissection and cruelty.

This failure on the part of those surrounding the trial to see Steve Harmon as a human carries with it major implications. Their mean-spiritedness indicates that they more than projected a guilty verdict onto Steve when he was accused of murder. It indicates that they projected a guilty verdict onto him long before he was even on trial.

Since, in the eyes of these “outsiders,” Steve exists as more of an idea than a human, he is, to them, worth no more than the sum of his parts. He is a teenager; he is black; he is associated with convicted criminals. He is a mere concoction of the things white American culture has bred them to hate. His trial is their opportunity to unload all of the opinions that they hold in secret – opinions they would be condemned for expressing under any other circumstances. As a human, Steve would demand their attention, their dignified consideration, and their respect. But as an idea – as a monster – Steve can serve as an outlet for their suppressed vitriol. And so they elect to see him as the latter.

In truth, regardless of his guilt or his innocence, Steve is a human being and is inherently worth more than just the sum of his parts. However, what is not worth more than the sum of its parts is the American justice system. As a device intended to facilitate justice and ensure the safety of the American people, a faulty “part” automatically equals a faulty system. Considering the American justice system is comprised of individuals, those individuals’ personal ideologies as well as the overarching political atmosphere intersect and influence how – and how effectively – justice is deliv-

ered through the justice system. It follows that a country wherein internalized racial prejudice is the norm is not a country whose justice system can be expected to serve all of its citizens equally.

Individuals are an integral part of the judiciary. There is no way to remove them from the process of determining the guilt or innocence of the accused while maintaining the necessary nuance and subjective eye the court system demands. Therefore, apathy can never be an option for America's citizenry. The personal is truly political, and “outsiders” are an illusion. As demonstrated by Myers, everyone has an obligation to be informed and aware.

Monster may be a work of fiction, but the themes it addresses are real. Steve Harmon may not exist, but teenagers like Steve do. They have every right to a justice system that works for them. We have every reason to help provide one.

WORKS CITED

Myers, W.D. (1999). *Monster*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers LLC.



HANNAH MANIKOWSKI

HONORS EVENTS

NOTABLE LINES FROM ESSAY HONORABLE MENTIONS WINNERS

“If the justice system’s judgement is clouded by prejudice, we are guilty of breaking our own moral platitudes and exposing ourselves as hypocrites—but even more importantly, we are guilty of unjustly harming innocent citizens.”

- MIKE ABRAHAM

“This is the sad reality – these people, good human beings, can barely stand for themselves in the eyes of a jury, but simply hope the good in them will be seen.”

- EMILY BIEKER

“Humans find it difficult to find guilt in other humans who are similar to them. By having a “jury of peers” which does not fairly represent the person facing trial and their community, juries become bias.”

- MACKENZIE CARLSON

“Crime and punishment are no longer two sides of an equal equation.”

- MADDY CROZIER

“The death of Eric Garner was a murder and yet the current American justice system let the murderers free. Justice should be blind, yet it is not.”

- ERIC DEASY

“As humans are flawed, one cannot expect a perfectly flawless judicial system. Yet the goal of the justice system is to give the opportunity for truth to be asserted and right to be upheld. There is a moral standard which must be met in carrying out justice, and the reality is that oftentimes prejudices interfere, impairing true justice from being carried out.”

- ERIC ELIA

“A large majority of what occurs in court relies on circumstance. There are several variables that can drastically change the outcome of a trial. The background of the judge or jurors can incline them to see a case in a certain light. Racism, although one of the worst biases dealt with in the courtroom, is not the only issue.”

- JOHANNA GUENTERT

“The reason for this disparity of treatment within the judicial system is that stereotypes and racial profiles are so deeply embedded in our subconscious; it is difficult to even realize that it is affecting our ability to pass judgment, leading to actions in the name of “justice” that aren’t always “just.”

- CAROLINE JONES

“While someone is supposedly innocent until proven guilty, that idealistic assertion may not be true in the eyes of the jury.”

- ALANA LADD

“Through Steve’s experience, Myers shows the negative effects suffered by many due to the corruption in the American justice system. It is not equal, it is not fair, it does not protect all American citizens.”

- ELLEN NOWOGROCKI

“If a black teenager is faced with a narrow-minded jury that lets prejudices invade judgement, then the American justice system no longer performs justice but rather perpetuates racism, through incorrect charges and unfair sentences.”

- ELIZABETH WOODRUFF

HONORS EVENTS



ATTENDING THE HONORS PICNIC-OR-HOW FREE FOOD TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF HUMAN COMPANIONSHIP

REUBEN DIAZ FRESHMAN, COMPUTER SCIENCE

I should probably start off this editorial by saying that I'm a crotchety old man trapped in the body of a college student. My first few weeks here at DePaul were spent almost exclusively in my dorm room, alone, with the occasional excursion to attend class or buy food.

That may sound like a pretty depressing start to the year, but it's how I roll, and I really enjoyed having so much time to myself: I got nothing but perfect scores on assignments, I had plenty of time to keep in touch with my friends in other places, and I did some writing that was, quite frankly, pretty impressive. It was nice.

That said, I did know, in the back of my mind, that I needed to get out more. I just never saw any point in it, until one of my roommates tore me away from my computer, looked me right in the eye and said, "Reuben, you gotta come to this picnic

thing. There's gonna be free pizza!" That was all the motivation I needed to give the event a shot.

Turns out, the pizza wasn't even the best part -- lunch wound up taking a backseat to meeting new people, having phenomenal conversations, and playing frisbee. It was really refreshing to be social in a reasonably relaxed environment, especially after slogging through god knows how many ice-breakers during the start of classes. The only way the afternoon could have been better was if there was a bit less wind.

Since then, I've been a lot more active, both in terms of extracurriculars and casual outings with friends. My grades have dropped a few percentage points, and I haven't had quite as much time to myself, but that's a small price to pay for a much more well-rounded college experience.

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

ANXIETY, COFFEE AND LOVE

My first high school boyfriend and I
used to start our sentences with,
“when we get married...”
I sat across my therapist today
and told her about the way I woke up at 5am
with my body floating away
through the parts of my windows
that the blinds just don’t reach.
She stares at me with deep brown eyes
and thinks of how to move my words around
and repeat them back to me.
I left excited to talk to her again,
and I don’t know if that’s a good thing
or a really bad thing.
What does that say about me,
that I love my therapist?
Later I stopped for a cup of coffee
and drank it without fear
of what the caffeine will do
to my nervous nervous system,
but it has been a long fight
to enjoy a pumpkin spice latte.
I think of you
in the quiet moments
of loud places,
and when I need to feel my feet on the ground.

KATE HARRINGTON SOPHOMORE, ENGLISH & CREATIVE WRITING

OH, TO LOVE THE RAIN AGAIN

To open my window
To the smooth sound of pouring,
Listening to a softened world

I think it will take
A thousand gentle showers
To remind me that
Not every dark cloud
Brings a storm

KATE HARRINGTON

LEAVING SOON

“You’re leaving soon,” says father, offhand, “Go clean out
the garage.”
And you listen, and you put on your shoes,
And you clean out the garage, because you’re a responsi-
ble young adult.

And you inhale dust from the sidewalk chalk you used to
draw silly faces with,
And you dirty your fingers on the toy trucks you used to
play in the mud with,
And you almost trip over a cracked bicycle helmet that
saved your life once,
when you were seven, and you didn’t quite see that tree
in your way.

And you find two large bins, one for recycling and one
for garbage,
And you toss aging mementos into waste receptacles,
And you think of your playground friends, and you won-
der where they all went.

And you place two full bins at the curbside for collection,
And you’re nearly struck by a seven-year-old cyclist, who
didn’t quite see you in his way,
And, as he speeds off, you wonder why it feels like he’s on
the verge of disappearance,
when you’re the one who’s leaving soon.

REUBEN DIAZ FRESHMAN, COMPUTER SCIENCE

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

CREATIVITY

MADDY CROZIER FRESHMAN, JOURNALISM

In late August of this year, German researchers released a very technical report full of equations and references that amounted to one thing: a newly developed computer algorithm can expertly transform ordinary photos into paintings in the style of any famous artist.

The technique combines an ordinary photograph of any subject with a famous work of art to then mimic stylistic elements of the painting within the photograph, making it look like an original created by the artist. According to the report, titled “A Neural Algorithm of Artistic Style,” this success reveals that, “we can manipulate both representations [photograph and painting] independently to produce new, perceptually meaningful images.”

The mathematical system devised by the researchers is “capable of turning images into imitation works of art in just an hour,” reported UK news source Wired.

From here, it might not be an impossible leap to envision computers creating original works of art in dazzling imitations of classical painters, no photograph needed—or even in unique styles never before created by artists. It brings up images of a futuristic Tomorrowland with museums erected to the testament of machine-kind.

And, of course, technology itself is a symbol of the progress of humans. Exponential developments continue to shape both the world as we know it and the latest version of the iPhone. After all, man did derive the math from which this specific algorithm was created, computers themselves, and all their developments since. Technological feats are not to be ignored.

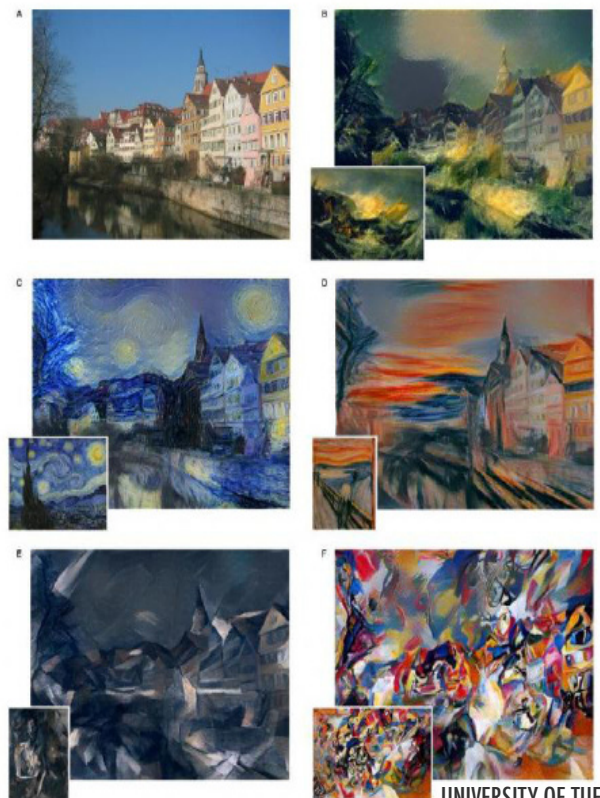
Advancements like this are not to question the value of human creativity. As far as I’m concerned, it’s the most valuable thing we’ve developed yet.

Creativity itself, being inherently human, is therefore unable to be manufactured. It can be both innate or learned, a gift or a skill, but only a human characteristic, most present within people who continuously strive to record their life experiences with artistic mediums. It remains an undeniably valuable facet of our world to embrace and to seek art.

Computer-generated art reproductions (or even originals) could never sustain the human appetite for more. We seek the bold, the new, and the change-your-view. We seek it in sloppy graffiti, Internet galleries, and museums. Art gives us a human spin on the everyday, and thus inspiration to explore ourselves more. Art can be calming or destructive, questioning or answering. And we need every bit of it as we continue the conversations between art and ourselves that shapes us into more worldly, insightful, and active citizens.

Not to mention the fact that human artists can create under amazing circumstances. Think of composer Ludwig van Beethoven orchestrating timeless symphonies as he fell into deafness, artist Frida Kahlo painting remarkable portraits as grievous injuries chased her, or the determined Helen Keller authoring twelve novels.

Think of them, and then see how well a computer performs when you take out its hard drive.



UNIVERSITY OF TUEBINGEN

WHERE'S THE MOON? ... AND OTHER ICELAND MUSINGS

EMILY CREEK SENIOR, ANTHROPOLOGY

What do you know about Iceland? Bjork? Trolls? The Blue Lagoon?, I didn't know too much besides those things before I went there this past summer. All I knew is I needed to go. Does that seem extreme? Let me explain. As an anthropology major planning on graduate school, I only knew a few things about my future. Those things were that dance anthropology is a viable thing to study and that Iceland is a hotbed of modern dance. Therefore, I needed to go to Iceland. After much googling, I found an anthropology course offered through Wellesley College that was taught in Iceland. I called the professor and signed up!

Iceland was the most incredible place I've ever traveled to. We started in Reykjavik, spending our first days having class in hostel lounges and roaming around looking at street art, going to museums, talking to police officers in bars, and eating waffles.

We never saw the moon.

From there, we traveled to the West Fjords. We ate whale (I know, terrible...but so good!) and cheered on our new friend Jón as he arctic water-skied. I danced in an empty art gallery and hiked up to a waterfall and danced in its ice-cold mist.

We took a ferry to an abandoned village on a peninsula and stayed in the one house there. Our cooks were from France and Sweden and we spent our days hiking and having class. We spent our always-sunny nights playing cards, eating sugar pancakes, and playing guitar to the river with our cooks while baby arctic foxes ran through the hills around us.

We never saw the moon.

My friend fell into the Arctic Ocean ten minutes before our ferry left and we spent the ferry-ride back being splashed by ice cold waves and trying to find the humor in the pain. We got locked out of our hotel that night. As we drove along the fjord trying to find a place to sleep, we found the moon against the pink sky. After a few minutes, the moon disappeared, as a giant lone blue whale appeared in the fjord. The whale swam at our car's pace for



ten minutes before disappearing in the midnight sunset/rise.

We decided that the blue whale was the moon.

We stayed at a farm where we played with puppies and jumped on trampolines and watched Icelandic movies. We rode Icelandic horses. We went back to Reykjavik. There we had more classes and started our papers. My paper was on coffee shops, so I made myself cozy at the coffee shops every day. I met a fella I'm probably in love with, but I don't know his name because his handwriting is bad and I don't speak Icelandic.

A week after arriving home I turned in my paper. It was the best paper I'd ever written. I am so proud of it.

So here's my advice. If you want to go to a place like Iceland...or any other: go. Do it. Find a way. In the end, DePaul gave me credit and I found a piece of my soul I didn't know I was missing. It's never impossible to go. What's more impossible is returning.

OUT AND ABOUT

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LINCOLN HALL

WOLF ALICE TAKES OVER LINCOLN HALL

ALEXA SMITH FRESHMAN, ANTHROPOLOGY

If you've never heard of up and coming, London-based band Wolf Alice, it's not surprising, but they've surely made a name for themselves in the States over the past year. Their debut album *My Love Is Cool* dropped in June of this year, but Wolf Alice was already in the process of selling out shows for their *My Love Is Cool* headlining tour.

On October 6th, the band made a stop in Chicago to play Lincoln Hall with fellow UK band Drenge and Buffalo, and New Yorkers Made Violent. Made Violent played the first set of the night. They fit the role of a young, dirty rock n' roll band quite well. Their raucous guitar riffs and heavy bass lines were sent through the walls of Lincoln Hall to get the all ages crowd ready for what was to come the rest of the night.

Drenge, who are regarded as one of the best live bands from the UK right now, followed shortly after Made Violent. The lightshow alone could've filled the 30-minute set, but Drenge's heavy hitting music accompanied it to create a vibrant and lively energy in the room. They were met with loud praise after every song and were far from disappointing.

The anticipation was rewarded as soon as Wolf Alice took the stage. Opening with 'Your Loves Whore', and playing *My Love Is Cool* in full, there was a mix of mellow songs ('Soapy Water,' 'Swallowtail') and full fledged rock n' roll tunes ('You're A Germ,' 'Giant Peach,' 'Moaning Lisa Smile'). The sound of the songs varied, but the adoration of the crowd never strayed throughout their set.

Ellie Rowsell, vocals and guitar, emulated confidence in her voice and the way she moved on the small, but fitting stage. Bassist Theo Ellis was in a constant state of motion, at one point even jumping down from the stage and playing in the middle of the crowd. The dynamic aspect of the band was shown through Joff Oddie's intoxicating guitar riffs, and Joel Amey's impressive performance on drums and continuous back-up vocals, even singing all his own on the gentle tune 'Swallowtail.' Anyone in the crowd could tell by the band's dominating performance that they came to show they're only just getting started.

All praise to Wolf Alice for taking over Lincoln Hall and showing Chicago what they're all about. If this performance was any indication for what's in store, there's no doubt Wolf Alice has a very long future in music ahead of them. Keep your eyes and ears open to see what's next for this London act; Wolf Alice is not a band to miss out on.

The logo for the band Wolf Alice, featuring the band's name in a stylized, handwritten script font.

[HTTP://WOLFALICE.CO.UK/](http://wolfalice.co.uk/)

THOUGHTS ON SEEING NOAH GUNDERSEN AT THALIA HALL AND GRADUATING IN NOVEMBER

EMILY CREEK SENIOR, ANTHROPOLOGY

Two weeks ago, I went in for round five of Noah Gundersen live. If you don't know, Noah sings sad songs with words far more wise than his twenty-something years.

I'm in a weird place: a place of having quit an internship and feeling free; a place of fear about my two-months until graduation from DePaul; a dislike for Chicago and a desire to live alone in the wilderness for a while...at the same time feeling so deeply loved by humans here and not being ready to leave. I'm scared sick over applications to graduate school and frustrated that I can't find the words that will get me accepted to my dream school.

That's where Noah's show at Thalia and his new album (Carry the Ghost) come in. The album is full of songs about difficult things we all deal with. It is raw. It is honest. And it is uncomfortable. It is that uncomfortability that makes it so so good. I think we humans need that more. How else can we grow? By asking those questions and through dealing with the pain and the confusion, I think we can become better humans.

The opener, Ivan and Alyosha opened up the show in the drop dead gorgeous and intimate Thalia Hall in Pilsen. I laughed and clapped next to a good friend. And joy oozed. Then, the lights went down. Noah's band came on stage; the instruments wept. And out comes Noah, his long, greasy (Snape-like) hair covered by a dark brooding hood. His haunting voice filled the air. This show was different than his others. He explored sound on old classics and new material. Sometimes, us in the audience were clapping and dancing; other times, we were in tears as painful emotions dripped from his guitar. He made jokes

that are inappropriate about the lyrics of his new material and told us we weren't allowed to have fun. He was simply Noah: humble, despite playing in a larger and arguably more beautiful venue than his solo shows had afforded him to play before. Thalia Hall held its breath for those few hours as Noah, Abby, Johnny, and Armon Jay rocked our world. It was quite simply a night to be human and to connect to other humans.

Go see Noah. And if you don't go see Noah next time around (he likes to come to Chicago), treat yourself to any show at Thalia Hall. That place is special.



EMILY CREEK & NOAH GUNDERSEN AT
HIS RECENT THALIA HALL SHOW

UPCOMING SHOWS AT THALIA HALL

- TUES. NOVEMBER 17 @ 9PM **JEEZY**
- THURS. NOVEMBER 19 @ 8PM **DANDY WARHOLS & THE SHIVAS**
- SUN. NOVEMBER 22 @ 8PM **MOON TAXI**
- WED. DECEMBER 09 @ 8PM **JOHNNYSWIM CHRISTMAS**
- THURS. DECEMBER 10 @ 8PM **CAMERON ESPOSITO**
- SUN. DECEMBER 13 @ 530PM **DEERHUNTER**

**"REMEMBER, MONSIEUR, THAT ROSES ARE NOT GATHERED EXCEPT IN THE MIDST OF THORNS
AND THAT HEROIC ACTS OF VIRTUE ARE ACCOMPLISHED ONLY IN WEAKNESS."**

-ST. VINCENT DEPAUL

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