



HONORABLE MENTIONS

Fall 2017

A collaboration by
DePaul University's Honors Program



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HONORABLE UPDATES

Words from the HSG President

By Nick Gricus

Ever since I started my time at DePaul, I've come to understand that we, as students, have the potential to systematically change our campus for the better. Confronted by issues that have polarized our community, I spent my first year collaborating with administrators to reform our campus free speech policies, working with fellow students to make DePaul more politically active, and attending conferences with student leaders from around the country. And yet, the greatest beacon for change that I've come across on campus is Honors Student Government.

Building on the framework provided by past leaders, I took on the role of president hoping to tap into the unparalleled talent and enthusiasm of Honors students. To say that I have been blown away by members of the Honors program is an understatement. Our early efforts to make a difference in our community have included volunteering at the Franciscan Outreach soup kitchen, initiating a food drive on the Honors Floor, and waking up at the crack of dawn to work the Chicago Marathon. However, service is just at the tip of HSG's iceberg.

Members of HSG have truly pushed the envelope for what is possible within a student group. We have engaged in critical discussions on a myriad of pertinent issues, including civic engagement, urban planning, and campus culture. We have organized, and continue to organize, social events aimed at building as strong a sense of camaraderie as possible. And, most importantly, we have opened our ears and hearts to one another. The perpetual undertone of consideration, appreciation, and genuine fascination for one another is what makes HSG stand out. By continuing to foster these extraordinary qualities moving forward, I firmly believe that our potential as a student group is limitless.



HSG President Nick Gricus (right) and HSG Vice President Maciej Pivowarczyk pose with St. Vincent dePaul.



Rise Up! represents how all Honors students continuously rise to meet challenges, a theme for the 2017-2018 HSG.

All of Honors Student Government's work has been geared toward creating dynamic student leaders. A recurring theme that HSG has maintained since the commencement of the school year has been to strive for excellence with a sense of perseverance, gravitas, and excitement. The phrase "Rise up!" may have been popularized by *Hamilton*, but Honors Student Government is taking the expression to a whole new level. I thank my executive board and all of our dedicated members for creating the successful experiences that we have had thus far. Working alongside such driven and aspirational students is nothing short of a privilege, and I cannot wait to continue our efforts toward maximizing what HSG is capable of in the future.



The 2017-2018 HSG Board gathers in St. Vincent's Circle in anticipation for the year ahead.

HONORABLE EVENTS

Welcome, Dr. Martha Martinez-Firestone! Getting to know the Honors Program's new director

By Zoey Barnes

Since 2005, Dr. Martha Martinez-Firestone has engraved her name in DePaul University's Honors Program. She began her career at DePaul teaching States, Markets, and Societies (HON 201). In July of 2016, Dr. Martinez-Firestone stepped up to become the new Director of the Honors Program. From an upbringing in Monterrey, Mexico to a PhD at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, and then a move to Chicago, she has made a home at DePaul.

Ending up in Chicago was a happy accident for her and her husband, who met at Duke University

while studying Sociology and Mathematics, respectively. Coming from Monterrey, Mexico, Dr. Martinez-Firestone knew she wanted to live in a cosmopolitan city, but one that was also Latino-friendly. Lively Chicago gave her the opportunity to branch off and experience a completely international life. As she searched for a research and teaching profession, a job at DePaul opened, and since then, she has not looked back.

Before moving to the United States, Dr. Martinez-Firestone received a Bachelor's degree in Communication Sciences from the Monterrey Institute of Technology,

“To the seniors, remember that this is your home, too, and it always will be. I hope you follow your dreams, but remember to come back and help others fulfill their dreams as well. To the freshmen, the life of an intellectual is also a fun and exciting life. Always enjoy the process of learning.”



Dr. Martha Martinez-Firestone and her daughter Emily enjoy the Student Faculty dinner (See story on Page 6).

and wrote for a cookie company magazine. After her illustrious career in cookie writing ended, she transferred to another business where she realized instead of being a manager, she wanted to study managers. This realization prompted her to earn a PhD in Sociology.

She offers this valuable advice: “To the seniors, remember that this is your home, too, and it always will be. I hope you follow your dreams, but remember to come back and help others fulfill their dreams as well. To the freshmen, the life of an intellectual is also a fun and exciting life. Always enjoy the process of learning.”

Outside of the classroom, Dr. Martinez-Firestone enjoys trying new restaurants and going to the Art Institute of Chicago to see artwork in person that she had previously only seen in a textbook. When she needs some quiet from a city that never sleeps, she finds serenity in Lake Geneva. While at home, she enjoys cooking, watching *Star Trek* and sci-fi movies, and reading Jane Austen classics.

Dr. Martinez-Firestone has had an amazing thirteen years at DePaul University. She says the Honors Program has always been her home, and this is where she would like to stay, as not only an Associate Professor of Sociology, but as the Director of the Honors Program.

Heart Walk in the Heat

By Amelia Modes

Millions of American adults are diagnosed with heart disease each year; the grim reality is that this disease is the leading cause of death in both men and women, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. The American Heart Association (AHA) works to fund research towards curing this awful killer. Many local and state chapters of the AHA across the nation work together. Each year, the AHA hosts a plethora of fundraising walks to help raise awareness, promote healthy living, and raise money towards a good cause. This year, the Honors Program decided to help out and walk at Chicago's Heart Walk on Friday, September 22.

Before the walk even came around, the team set up accounts on the AHA's website to register for the walk as well as set fundraising goals for themselves. Team Captain and Honors Program Assistant Director Jennifer Kosco gave the Honors Team a fundraising goal of \$500, with each person asked to raise between \$25 and \$50. On the day of the walk, the team of thirteen Honors students and Jennifer met up in the Honors Loop office and set out for a walk along the lakefront. The sticky, humid, and extremely sunny weather was quite unusual for the end of September. As a participant, I can tell you that the weather was definitely not ideal for walking. As a team, we all agreed upon walking the shorter, one-mile walk rather than the lengthier three-mile trail that was offered. Lake Michigan offered beautiful sight-seeing, as well as a nice breeze that made the walk almost bearable. At a few



"#Heartwalking," a hashtag used by the American Heart Association, connects Heart Walks around the country.



Three cheers for the 2017 Heart Walk team!



Members of the Heart Walk team are all smiles.

instances, I saw first year student Aliza Bromberg making moves to jump into the refreshing lake, and I do not think any of us would have turned down the offer to cool down. After many bouts of exhaustion and lightheadedness, the team rejoiced when the walk was finished.

After it was all said and done, many of the participants agreed that, in spite of the grossly hot weather, it was an extremely rewarding experience. Additionally, the team surpassed the goal by \$360, which came to a grand total of \$860! Here, I would like to give a huge shoutout to freshman Ronan Clague, who raised a whopping \$350 through his own fundraising efforts. It was truly incredible to see all the good that could be accomplished when we all come together as one sticky hot mess!

Connections at the Student Faculty Dinner

By Kurt Edlund

Everything new. New peers. New friends. New professors. New neighborhood. New life. The first days and weeks of freshman year of college bring an inundation of unfamiliar activities that can be easily overwhelming. However, I always knew that I was welcomed in at least one community: the Honors Program. As a resident of the Honors Floor, the beginning of my new college life was never as overwhelming as it could have been.

My roommates have become my best friends. We spend many late nights with friends in the dorm lounges. This camaraderie and friendship made my adjustment to college life immeasurably more enjoyable because I was never alone in anything. My new friends were there and continuously are there for me. Whether it is a casual laugh or a heart-to-heart, I know that there is someone there for me in my social life, all thanks to living on the Honors Floor. Yet with all of these relationships, I still did not have a close bond with any of my professors to nurture my academic mind. What can be done about that conundrum?

Short answer: eat dinner at Fiesta Mexicana. The Honors Program has a distinct event to foster relationships between professors and students: Quarterly Student Faculty Dinners. As soon as the email to RSVP for this event was sent out, I replied with a resounding yes. In my third week of college, I did not care if any of my new friends would be going to this dinner because I knew that I wanted to be involved and meet the professors through the Student Faculty dinner.

I left my dorm on September 28 for a quick walk down Fullerton to Fiesta Mexicana for my first Student Faculty dinner. As I walked east, I started to notice a somewhat familiar face behind me. I had never talked to him before, but had seen him around campus, so I slowed down to start a conversation with him. It turns out that we both live on the Honors Floor and both were going to the same dinner. We continued the rest of the walk together and could not stop talking. From that moment on, I knew that the Student Faculty dinner would be a great success because I had met someone new before I even walked into the restaurant.

After being greeted by Emma Rubenstein in the entryway, my new friend and I sat down across from each other and noticed a nametag to my left for Roshanna Sylvester. As more and more people arrived, I anxiously awaited meeting Professor Sylvester. A few minutes after 5:00, she walked into the restaurant and sat down next to me; the rest of the evening was history. Roshanna Sylvester is an associate history professor in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. For the entire evening,



Honors students and professors alike sit side-by-side and enjoy the conversation at the Student Faculty dinner at Fiesta Mexicana.

we didn't stop talking about Russian history: Czars, the assassination of the last Czarist family, Rasputin and his large influence on the Court of Czar Nicholas II, and much more.

Over plates of warm tacos, rice, and chips and guacamole, we talked about Russia through the entire meal. Towards the end of the dinner, Professor Sylvester talked about her home life and her children. Her oldest is studying at DePaul University already, which led her to give invaluable advice to all of the freshman sitting around her, advice that she has learned as a faculty member and by being a DePaul parent.

She highlighted the importance of researching the exact program and/or degree that you are pursuing in order to understand the requirements for that program. She pointed out that some majors allow for a larger variety of open electives, while other programs only have one or two free electives allowed. While she spoke about the programs offered at DePaul, I became more and more excited to go back to the dorm and go to the University Catalog to learn more about exactly what I want to pursue at DePaul.

A simple dinner at Fiesta Mexicana turned out to be so much more than just free food. The dinner was an opportunity to take a step back from the constant rush of daily life as a college student and look at the big picture. Think about what I truly want. Reflect on where I am now. Imagine the future of where I want to be. This dinner has had such a meaningful impact on my life, and it was only possible because of Professor Sylvester. I cannot wait until Winter Quarter's Student Faculty dinner!

Chicago Architecture Foundation Walking Tour

The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is a nonprofit cultural organization that offers tours, information, and exhibitions to Chicago locals and visitors alike. Over 450 docents give tours by foot, bus, or train to sites that include some of the most famous and visible buildings in Chicago, as well as the lesser-known feats of architecture. There are so many sights to see that CAF offers more than 85 unique architecture tours, from “Art Deco Skyscrapers” to “Grant Park Secrets” to “Chicago Modern.”

The Honors Program sponsors an annual CAF walking tour for up to 12 interested Honors students. On Friday, September 15, ten lucky students explored the architectural sights of the Loop on the “Historic Treasures of Culture and Commerce” walking tour. Even if you think you know Chicago, the CAF walking tours are a fun adventure, and almost guarantee to tell you something you never knew before!

For more information on architecture tours, visit www.architecture.org.



The stunning mosaic creates a centerpiece on the domed ceiling of the fourth floor at Macy's.



CAF Docent Roy shares insight with the group while walking on State Street.



No, they're not shopping at Macy's! CAF Docent Roy tells CAF Tour participants to look up at the magnificent mosaic ceiling on the fourth floor of the Macy's State Street store.



CAF Walking Tour 2017 participants pose around a fountain at the State Street Macy's store, another interesting architectural feature in the nine-story structure.

Lunch with the President: Three HSG Board Members hear from Dr. Esteban

By Madeline Crozier

After the departure of Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, DePaul selected A. Gabriel Esteban, PhD, as the 12th president of the university. Dr. Esteban commenced his presidency on July 1, and since then, he has made great strides in meeting with faculty and staff across the university.

On October 6, Dr. Esteban expanded this endeavor by meeting with 30 students from across DePaul's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS). This marked the first student group Dr. Esteban met with other than the Student Government Association (SGA).

LAS students who attended the 45-minute lunch with Dr. Esteban represented departments across the college, including undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students, as well as members of SGA and HSG. HSG's Treasurer Andrew Krueger, Student Academic Representative Emma Nippe, and *Honorable Mentions* editor Madeline Crozier attended on behalf of HSG.

Although Dr. Esteban highlights the importance of a strong and visible SGA on campus, he still made a distinct effort to meet with involved students in LAS. He said, "We make it a point to meet with SGA leadership two times each quarter to make sure students have a voice. We have 23,000 students, all with a different voice that can be channeled through SGA."

Dr. Esteban most recently served as president of Seton Hall University for 10 years. As the newly-chosen president of DePaul, Dr. Esteban made it clear he wants to hear from students as he embarks on a strategic planning process. Since DePaul's current six-year strategic plan ends in 2018, Dr. Esteban has the responsibility to lead the University into its strategic plan for the next six years.

DePaul's current six-year plan is called Vision 2018. According to the Office of the President, the five goals of Vision 2018 are: (1) Enhance Academic Quality and Support Educational Innovation, (2) Deepen the University's Distinctive Connection to the Global City of Chicago, (3) Strengthen our Catholic and Vincentian Identity, (4) Diversity and Inclusion, and (5) Ensure a Business Model that Builds the University's Continued Strength and Educational Excellence. DePaul worked towards accomplishing these goals by beginning construction on a new School of Music building, establishing a Center for Journalism Integrity and Excellence, and erecting its Vincentian Tribute memorial site next to Arts & Letters Hall, among other initiatives.

The Honors Program would like to wish a warm welcome to President Esteban.



HSG Treasurer Andrew Krueger (left) and HSG Student Academic Representative Emma Nippe (right) meet with Dr. Esteban.

A Preview of The DePaul Theatre School's *Into the Woods*

By Maiwenn Brethenoux

Every year, the DePaul Theatre School performs a musical. This year, the title is *Into the Woods*. According to director Barry Brunetti, "this production does not in any way follow the recent film version, [but] the music is really the same."

Brunetti created a live storybook with a "multicultural and multi-ethnic cast." He wanted it to be a challenging performance for the actors, designers, and technicians: bringing a quilt of tales to life is no small task.

Those involved in the musical must develop the characters in a way that shows them as real people living in a world as dangerous as our own, rather than fairytale characters with luck and magic on their side. As it is in our world, Brunetti argues, the characters' "wishes [...]" come with obstacles, crises, and dangerous elements that interrupt the forward motion of [their] journeys."

The production (with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, based on the book by James Lapine) weaves together Brothers Grimm stories (Rapunzel and The Little Red Riding Hood), Henry Cole's Jack and the Bean-Stalk, and Charles Perrault's fairy tale Cinderella. The protagonist is a childless baker who must find four objects for a witch in order to have a son: hair as yellow as corn, a cape as red as blood, a cow as white as milk, and a slipper as pure as gold. That's right—an object from each of the stories mentioned above. This leads to confusion and troubles, but the journeys, lessons, and endings of these people are reserved for an attentive audience.

Now, dear readers, all you must do is remember: be careful what you wish for.

Life on the Honors Floor

By Amelia Modes

DePaul offers incoming freshmen the opportunity to live in residence halls across campus, but Honors Program students can request to live on the Honors Floor in Clifton-Fullerton Hall. The sixth floor of this dorm is restricted to Honors students. Besides the benefit of all these students sharing classes with you, it allows for a more intimate feel than a traditional residential living experience would offer. During the first week of school, I do not think I ever saw one closed door down the hallway; everyone is so friendly and inviting. I'll never forget when we all barely knew each other, but squeezed into the West Lounge, cuddled under blankets and sprawled out on the floor to watch *He Named Me Malala* before the Honors Retreat.

The lounges are a common hangout space. There's always people studying, playing music, baking, or just goofing off at any given time on any day of the week. I think there's a common misconception that the Honors Floor is all about studying and academics, and while there are plenty of conversations about schoolwork and professors, there is a plethora of activity always happening on the floor. One of the newly-elected Honors Floor Representatives, Tuyet Anh Le, is famous for all the events she hosts—everything from talent shows

Congratulations, Honors Floor Representatives!



Congratulations to the newly-elected 2017-2018 Honors Floor Representatives! From left to right: Tuyet Anh Le, Kurt Edlund, Amelia Modes, and Jake Lukawski.

to friend speed dating. Jon Knecht started an *American Horror Story* viewing party each week in the sixth floor west lounge for the show's seventh season airing now. All of these events bring those living on the floor closer and allow us an opportunity to get to know each other and our interests and talents. Even the less formal events, such as the 15-minutes-before-quiet-hour dance parties, help relieve stress and get our minds off homework, even if just for a little bit. It is overwhelming to witness all the support and love everyone has for one another, even if I do sometimes get irritated when it's two in the morning and everyone is still loudly conversing with one another.

Living on the Honors Floor has provided me with such great memories and experiences already that I cannot wait to see what the rest of the year has in store. I am also so glad to have the opportunity to represent the Honors Floor and the people calling it home alongside Jake Lukawski, Tuyet Anh Le, and Kurt Edlund as Honors Floor Representatives in Honors Student Government. The Honors Floor has felt like home these past two months, and I cannot imagine living anywhere else on campus.

Rise Up!

By Jade Ryerson

During the summer months, the Honors Program invited all incoming Honors Freshmen for Fall 2017 to participate in its annual Essay Contest. Freshmen read I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban, the autobiographical story of Malala Yousafzai. Students were then invited to submit essays based on the following prompt: Malala Yousafzai said, “I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout, but so that those without a voice can be heard.” For whom have you raised your voice? If you have not, how would you rise up and for whom would you speak out?

The results of the essay contest were announced at the Honors Retreat on Tuesday, September 5. The 2017 winning essay was submitted by Jade Ryerson, a Political Science major from Bridgeview, IL. Jade is featured in the “Student Spotlight” section of the Honors Program website, and also received a Barnes & Noble gift card. Her winning essay appears below.

My mother always tells me the saying that, “Evil thrives when good men do nothing.” Looking at history, there are copious instances where this statement held true and apathy and indifference have won out, resulting in devastation that could have easily been prevented. Like the rise of Adolf Hitler due to the failings of the League of Nations, international catastrophes are often caused from a failure to speak out and demand action. Despite these international incidents, in our everyday lives too, small injustices occur due to inaction. I have never personally witnessed injustice on par with worldwide influence, and have only experienced wrongdoing on a smaller scale. Though not of global impact, my encounters have been just as poignant and significant on a local level, literally hitting home for me, especially because my experience occurred in my own neighborhood just this past summer. Whether global or at home, in a world where a divide exists between those who need help and those that are capable of giving it, it is crucial to rise up as an advocate for those who have no voice themselves because if fairness is expected, it is only right to reciprocate in return.

Everyone knows the Chicagoland area can face two extremes: unbearably hot and miserably cold. It is well known that these conditions are barely bearable, let alone comfortable, for anyone. Due to these extremes, most people would rather find something to do indoors in either season than face buckets of sweat or the threat of frostbite, respectively. On one particularly hot summer evening about a month ago, my best friend and I were walking back to her house after a snack spree. We strolled down a busy street in our neighborhood, familiar with

the retail stores and businesses lining it, and neared a lounge where patrons can play slots and other similar video games. I had passed it almost every day of the summer, the location being so close to my friend’s house, but something stood out about the lounge this time.

A black Mustang was parked in a space particularly close to the sidewalk, and glancing at the vehicle as we passed, I noticed a small dog, presumably a Shih Tzu, panting heavily in the back seat. I froze in my tracks before rushing over to check on the dog. Upon closer inspection, the car’s windows were barely cracked open and I discovered that not one, but two small dogs were trapped in the vehicle. Knowing that the interior temperature of a car can increase by at least ten degrees more than the temperature outside on hot days, I knew the cracked windows weren’t providing any relief for the dogs and became extremely upset. There was no water to be seen in the vehicle and the car wasn’t running so it was clear that the air conditioning was not in use. Sweat was dripping down my back just standing there; I could only imagine how bad it was for the dogs effectively baking inside the car. I knew that I had to take immediate action. I looked around for an owner and debated going inside the lounge to ask who had left their dogs in the car to fend for themselves against the oppressive heat. Instead, I called the local police’s non-emergency number to report what I had seen as soon as my friend and I rushed back to her house right around the corner. Dispatch sent



Jade Ryerson, author of the 2017 winning essay.

a car over immediately to check on the dogs and resolve the situation. I was relieved, but also alarmed that the owners had been so negligent, considering that summer news frequently features felony charges brought against people who leave their dogs unattended in the heat. As a dog owner and animal-lover in general, this experience was particularly jarring and heightened my awareness to the extent of animal abuse that occurs every day.

When considering issues plaguing the world today, thoughts immediately flicker to various forms of human suffering. World hunger, disease, poverty, climate change, war—the list goes on, but it is often forgotten that burdens are shared not only among people, but with others whom the planet is shared as well. Earth is home to many creatures beside ourselves, but they are at a distinct disadvantage when it comes to speaking out, because they have no means of communicating verbally. Animals cannot communicate in a way that is wholly understandable to humans, even with their simple forms of body language. An animal cannot express distress due to thirst or cry for help when in pain. Likewise, an animal cannot think to break a car window if they are left to combat the heat with no relief. Therefore it is the responsibility of people to rise up and advocate for the proper treatment and care of animals, especially if animals are expected to serve their purposes as well.

Because many animals are domesticated for human labor or companionship, these creatures have had the viciousness tamed out of them, becoming dependent and losing many of their natural defenses in the process. Malala emphasized rising up for those who have no voices, and it is equally critical to provide for and defend animals because human influence has rendered them not only voiceless, but also defenseless. Animals are therefore not only unable to speak out, but also helpless



The results of the 2017 essay contest were announced at the Honors Retreat on Tuesday, September 5. Jonathan Knecht (left) and Katrina Phidd (middle) both earned Honorable Mentions for their essays.

and subject to the whims of people providing their care due to domestication and human dominance. If there is a basic expectation that people regard each other with compassion, integrity, justice, and equality, it is only right to do the same for the creatures from whom unwavering loyalty and obedience are expected, despite repeatedly being exploited and even eradicated by people. Malala spoke up for those that were deprived of the opportunities to become educated and speak for themselves, and it is equally as important to rise up and advocate for those that not only have no means of doing so, but also literally have no voices.

Interning with a Politician/Professor

By Olivia Wageman

Darryl Thomas (R) is running for a seat in the 9th Congressional District just north and east of DePaul's campus. He is also the professor for my PSC 120 class—The American Political System. I have been fortunate to be able to volunteer on his campaign team, and learn about his perspective and goals. He hopes to shatter what he considers the bipartisan system has become: “a high-minded, very well educated, elitist version of the Bloods and Crips: red team versus blue team.”

My internship started at the beginning of Fall

quarter. As Team Leader, my assignments have included finding all the newspapers within the 9th district, which includes part of Chicago and the northern suburbs. I was also responsible for documenting certain demographics of millennials from the Team Coordinator, and sharing that information with my group members.

I am honored and grateful to Professor Thomas for the opportunity to be Team Leader, and for the leadership experience. I am also excited for the primaries in March, and being able to continue my volunteer experience.

MENTIONS REFLECTIONS

An Apprenticeship with the Chicago Tap Theatre

By Anabel Watson

Ever since I started training in the percussive art form of tap dancing around the age of six, I have envisioned myself pursuing dance as a performer in a professional company. As an apprentice in Chicago Tap Theatre (CTT), it is thrilling and slightly surreal to see this aspiration come to a tangible reality, full of exciting opportunities to come. I auditioned for CTT this summer and moved to Chicago from the Seattle area shortly



Anabel Watson performs tap dance (Photos courtesy of Anabel Watson).

after to begin classes in the DePaul Honors Program; meanwhile, the current company members were touring and performing in Europe!

As an art form, tap has allowed me to express myself through engagement with dancers from around the nation and around the world, feeding off each others' energy and expertise and sharing enthusiastic ideas. I love how tap is intellectually stimulating in its intricate patterns and rhythms while also serving as an emotive, forever-present source of physicality. In my youth, two life-changing experiences—learning from master tap dancers and performing my choreography in showcases at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project—provided the impetus for me to pursue dance specifically in Chicago. Through attending and performing self-choreographed solos at dance festivals and events in NYC, Vancouver, and other metropolitan areas, I decided from an early age to aim for a large city.



Anabel came to Chicago to pursue dance after performing at the Chicago Human Rhythm Project and learning from master tap dancers (Photo courtesy of Anabel Watson).

Chicago's tap dance scene is phenomenal, as are the local performance companies. I love the creative artistry and character involved in Chicago Tap Theatre. Since rehearsals for our holiday show have commenced, I have engaged with company members by learning complex, emotive, and theatrical pieces, such as being a dancing snowflake teetering on the edge of a cloud. This upcoming holiday performance is a multi-denominational celebration, showcasing the inclusive values that have also consistently drawn me to CTT.

While tap dance has always been a priority for me, this season in Chicago will be particularly busy for me as I adjust to a rigorous schedule balancing twelve-hour rehearsal weeks with a full Honors course load and participation in the DePaul Aikido Club. I recently declared my major as Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies (PAX), and am hoping to complete this, as well as a minor, in three years, including some time studying abroad. After spending last year serving with AmeriCorps as a full-time math and English tutor, I am excited to return to the sphere of academia as a student while pursuing my dream of dancing. Feel free to check out Chicago Tap Theatre's website at www.chicagotaptheatre.com for company bios and information on our upcoming shows!

Navigating Chicago: One Honors Student's Tips for Getting Around

By Justin Myers

For many freshmen, stepping off of campus and into the metropolitan frontier of Chicago is intimidating. Many students would rather stay back in their dorms in the comfort of DePaul. When basic considerations are met and facts are learned, the idea of going off on adventures in the city transforms from a fearful undertaking into an escape away from the stress of schoolwork and deadlines.

Before choosing a destination, there are some basic things that need to be known to ensure that your adventure will run like a well-oiled machine:

Google Maps is your best friend.

While there are plenty of other apps out there that provide directions, Google Maps is arguably the best for navigating the CTA transit network. By using the “Get Directions” feature and selecting the option for public transit, you can get your entire trip including transfers (if there are any) mapped out for you as well as the locations of each of the transit stops (make sure to zoom in on the map).

Add at least five minutes to the walking times provided by your phone's maps app.

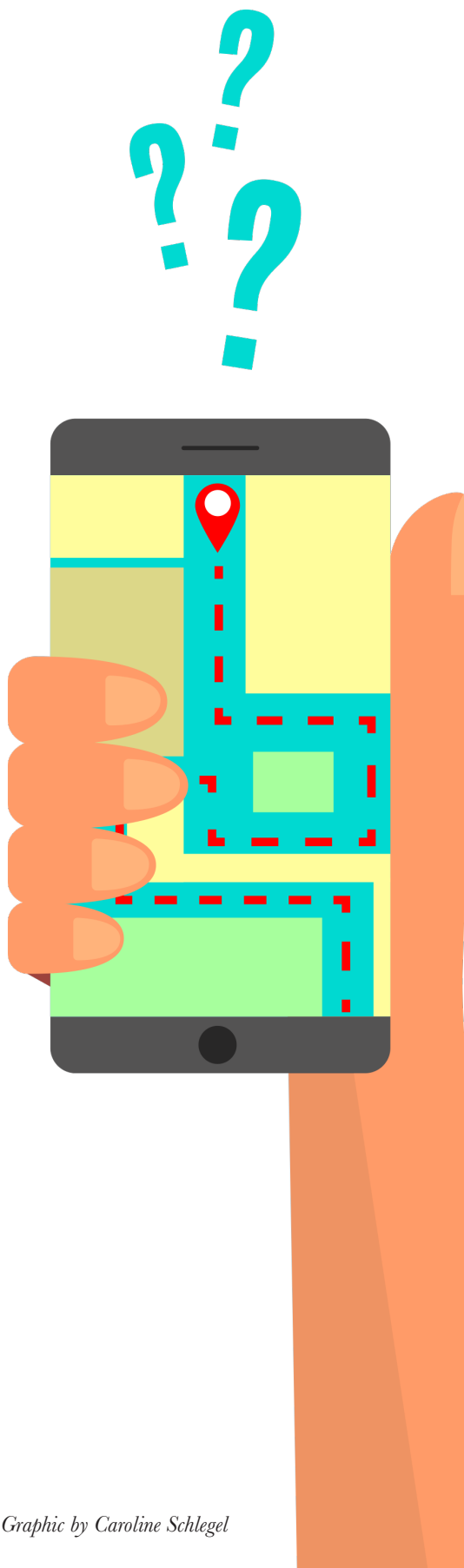
After having plugged in your directions, you now have a timetable of how long each part of your trip will take—including walking. That three minutes it takes to walk to your first CTA stop is a lie. That time frame is assuming that you are on street level, that every crosswalk displays “walk” as you come up to it, and that there will be no pedestrian traffic in your way. It is best to leave at least five minutes earlier than what is displayed and have to wait longer at the stop than to miss your ride.

You will miss rides.

The CTA isn't perfect. Sometimes there are delays, and you miss a transfer. Unless you're about to miss an important interview or meeting, it is not the end of the world. Make sure that your maps app has access to your location and type in your trip a second time to figure out how to make it up.

Go for it.

Get together a small group of friends, take advantage of online maps, add in time to spare, and go for it. You are living in the third-largest city in the country right now, and you're missing out on all that it has to offer by allowing your fear to explore overtake you. Break out of your shell and make your own adventure!



Yasmina's Necklace: A Review

By Maiwenn Brethenoux

"Arab Americans were once seen as white, [...] and as such they benefited from a range of rights that were available to whites and denied to members of groups ascribed as nonwhite; they latter experienced a reversal of this status through processes highly similar to racial formation [a concept involving the social processes of what is known as the racialization of groups of people]." (Cainkar 65)

Many writers agree that the "racial formation" described above is the product both of earlier and current racial, political, and ideological divisions, which seem to have become more prominent in the past couple of years, as well as a lack of open resistance (versus the ongoing passive acceptance) of these prejudices.

Rohina Malik's play *Yasmina's Necklace* reveals the reality that every wave of immigrants must deal with such stigmas—in work, in education, in daily interactions. For instance, in the play, Yasmina (played by Susaan Jamshidi) recounts to Sam (Michael Perez)—her acquaintance and later husband—a day during her job as a cashier, when a customer rudely called her out when she saw that Yasmina wore a necklace over her veil the shape of her home country, Iraq. She wore this as a reminder of who she was, of whom she lost during the war, and as a reminder of her homeland, which she loved beyond the politics that was (and is) remembered instead.

The characters in the play, such as Yasmina's father Musa (Rom Barkhordar), as well as Sam, faced challenges in integrating into the corporate or professional world. Musa, though a highly credentialed dentist in his home country, saw this training deemed worthless upon his resettlement in Chicago, and, unemployed for lack of recognition, had to consider becoming a cab driver to

make a living. Sam, both Iraqi and Puerto Rican, was obligated to change his Arabic name (Abdul-Sami) to an "American-sounding" one in order to have his résumé glanced at by companies that, once he did so, almost all proposed a position to him (he was a financial analyst).

Sam also had to remain silent when, one night at a pub with usually-friendly fellow workers, there was a newsreel about the bombing of Baghdad, and these colleagues cheered for this destruction of the capital of his father's country. Sam had to openly abandon his heritage to "survive" the workplace and succeed.

With Yasmina, however, he slowly learns to appreciate the culture passed down to him, as he learns of her own experience when she fled across countries to escape conflict and prosecution. She, meanwhile, learns to open up to him, and speak about the atrocities that still haunt her, and create the art she paints and displays throughout her home. Art, she argues, is not only therapeutic, but also essential for the preservation of a country's culture and history (this alludes to the destruction of ancient monuments and texts).

Fortunately, these invisibly-scarred persons have resources and a community of help in Chicago. Maudlyne Ihejirika, a veteran columnist whose mother fled to Chicago with her children, to escape from the Nigerian-Biafran War, writes that both voluntary immigrants and refugees here have access to small communities of "familiar sights, sounds, and smells," in addition to associations, such as the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR).

Still, they face segregation into these communities, and sometimes in their livelihood. In the end, we must all wholeheartedly embark, says Ihejirika, "on a new journey



YASMINA'S NECKLACE

BY ROHINA MALIK
DIRECTED BY ANN FILMER

that calls for a deeper understanding of our differences, and open and honest discourse as to how we hold on to American values through rational governmental policy.” Understanding cultures besides our own is vital to seeing others as equals, as other human beings, rather than millions of copies of stigmas. This is what Rohina Malik’s play seeks to do.

There is no place for hate, or its causes, in a true democracy and place of refuge. As poet Emma Lazarus famously wrote, “Give me your tired, your poor, / Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, / The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. / Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: / I lift my lamp beside the golden door!” We must *rise up* to fulfill that promise.

The play, which runs from October 20 to November

19 at the Goodman Theatre, had its world premiere last year at the 16th Street Theater in Berwyn, a theater whose mission is “to tell the stories of all the different people representative of the community.” 16th Street Artistic Director Ann Filmer worked with playwright Rohina Malik to bring the play downtown and continue the theater’s diverse panel of work. Now, *Yasmina’s Necklace* has moved to the Goodman—and all are encouraged to attend this 2016 Jeff Award-nominated performance!

When: Through November 19

Where: The Goodman Theatre’s Owen Theater, located at 170 N. Dearborn St.

Running time: 2 hours, one intermission

Tickets: \$10 with valid student ID, in-person or online at www.goodmantheatre.org/necklace (Code: 10TIX)

Vincentian Values at Vinny Fest

By Michelle Blahnik

Vinny Fest, hosted annually by DePaul’s Office of Mission and Values on the Quad in Lincoln Park, is a celebration of all things St. Vincent de Paul. On the very hot day that was Friday, September 22, I went to Vinny Fest for the first time! During my freshman year, I learned about the Vincentian mission and was introduced to St. Vincent de Paul and Louise de Marillac. DePaul’s Vincentian identity quickly became one of my favorite parts about the university.

My experience at Vinny Fest was wonderful, despite the heat. At the check-in table, fest-goers were given a sheet with Vincent trivia questions to answer. I had to go to different tables set up across the Quad. It was a welcome surprise to see how many university organizations and groups had a presence there. From DALE to Women’s Lacrosse to the Steans Center to University Ministry to the Student Government Association, every area of the university was represented. At the Health Promotion and Wellness table, I was asked about Take Care DePaul. The Vincentian Priests and Brothers handed out rubber bracelets and prayer cards. The Ray advertised its upcoming events. I made my own snow cone.

Living out the Vincentian mission is more than knowing that Vincent de Paul had five siblings or that

he decided to organize charity in Chatillon, France. Being Vincentian means creating community by joining organizations like Black Student Union or Synergy Dance Company. It means actively living out Take Care DePaul and understanding what holistic wellness looks like for you. It means doing community service or maybe going on a service immersion trip. Perhaps it looks like going to the Career Center and using their resources to recognize your calling in life, just like how St. Vincent had to reflect on his own when Madame de Gondi asked him, “What must be done?”

Vinny Fest is unique in its ability to showcase different parts of campus while highlighting the Vincentian identity. It’s meant to bring students together while helping them learn something new about the history of our university and its values. I learned a few more facts about St. Vincent. I enjoyed talking to different people who had their own meaning of what living out the mission meant to them. I also saw first-year students try out the games or activities. I watched two girls run at full speed and then launch themselves into the inflatable obstacle course together. It made me smile; and it also made me reflect on the value that an event like this has in the DePaul community.

Humanizing, not Haunting: HON 111's Transforming View of Cemeteries

By Jade Ryerson

Many students can look back on the Chicago Quarter as their most memorable, but not many can say that they spent it among the living and the dead. The few who proudly share in this experience are enrolled in Dr. Jane Baxter's Honors Explore class, Chicago's Historic Cemeteries.

This class, like any other Discover or Explore here at DePaul, integrates experiential learning. However, no other course can boast of excursions to four of Chicago's cemeteries, providing the opportunity to delve into the city's rich demographic and cultural past through the analysis and examination of various stylistic monuments and gravestones. The class even offers the opportunity to visit the graves of some of Chicago's famous figures including Cyrus McCormick, George Pullman, and Marshall Field.

Upon entry to any of the four sites, students encountered a roaming landscape divided into sections and dotted with hulking monuments like obelisks and mausoleums as well as smaller and plainer headstones.



Some of the older grave markers have worn down over time (Photo by Jade Ryerson).



Cemeteries are places of memory and reflection for the living (Photo by Jade Ryerson).

Graves range from worn and aging limestone to polished and smooth marble, and may be traditional box-like blocks or specific and figural like William Hulbert's baseball-shaped monument. Though diverse in appearance and size, every grave shares something in common—they deliberately act as the only remaining representation of a human life.

Cemeteries are typically regarded as chilling, rather than places to chill, but a lot more can be gleaned from cemeteries than immediately meets the often-averted eye. After the devastation caused by both world wars during the first half of the 20th century, attitudes toward death and the deceased became increasingly distant, even to the point of inducing horror. However, this wasn't always so, and hasn't been the sense that students have perceived on their visits, either.

During the early 19th century, in association with the Romantic movement, a change in mortuary ideology swept Europe and the United States. As the expansion of cities began to overrun churchyard graves and family plots, the exposure of graves posed both a health hazard and a moral disgrace. The resolution came in the form of the rural garden cemetery located on the outskirts of cities to provide a remote and respectful environment that reflected the beauty of nature, a sharp contrast to the urban environment just miles away.



The presence of nature has a peaceful, quieting effect on cemeteries (Photo by Jade Ryerson).

While potentially a haunting experience, students recount being in the cemeteries as peaceful, instead of creepy as one might first assume from being surrounded by the city's deceased. This sense of reverence and awe can be attributed to the presence of nature, a defining component of rural garden cemeteries.

"The natural setting makes things feel very peaceful in contrast to what people could interpret as the grim nature of death," Ben Jaramillo describes. "Being surrounded by trees makes it feel like you're wandering in the forest, which makes everything feel very quiet in comparison to the city. It feels like a little refuge from

"Every grave shares something in common—they deliberately act as the only remaining representation of a human life."

everything that's out there."

Though apart from the bustle of city life, rural garden cemeteries were by no means lifeless, and were constructed for the living as much as for the dead. With the intention to be visited, the natural surroundings provided the perfect place to reflect on the finitude of life, continue to incorporate the dead, and most recently provide an area of study and data collection for first-year college students.

"I think the best part of our class is that we view cemeteries from an entirely new perspective," says Cam Rodriguez. "They're not places of death, but of life."

With these experiences, students in Chicago's Historic Cemeteries can now regard cemeteries and maybe even death itself in a new light. My own experience in the course has been just as riveting as my

peers' and has maybe even impacted my own sense of mortuary ideology.

Although the opportunity to take this class has eclipsed for all current students, Chicago's cemeteries are only a few CTA stops away. I highly recommend taking a trip to one of the closer sites like Graceland or Rose Hill. Even if the visit isn't life—or rather death—changing, the natural beauty of the landscape, architectural feats, and the famous interred there make the visit more than worth it, and offer an atypical way to get in touch with Chicago's history.



This memorial site sits among grass, trees, and flowers (Photo by Jade Ryerson).

History and Family at The Athenian Room

By Andrea Torres

As I sat at one of the quaint, round tables surrounded by vibrant flower boxes on Sunday afternoon at my favorite Greek restaurant of all time, The Athenian Room, I began to reminisce over my old memories in



The Athenian Room is located at 807 West Webster Ave. (Photo by Andrea Torres).

the compact, homey dining room. While unassuming on the outside, the restaurant has perhaps the most incredible Greek fries and roasted chicken in Chicago. If you don't believe me, just ask Tina Fey, who describes the chicken as "unbelievable" in a web video featured on her sitcom *30 Rock*. Located at 807 West Webster Avenue (at Halsted), a mere three blocks from DePaul's Lincoln Park campus, the place offers a variety of Greek and American-style items that everyone can enjoy. The recipes have remained untouched since 1972, when the restaurant was first established, and it continues to be under the same management today, meaning you'll get a home cooked meal regardless of what you order.

When my parents first moved from Mexico to the U.S. in June of 1996, it didn't take them very long to become regulars at The Athenian Room. The hospitality and quality of the food was just unmatched with any other restaurant, according to my father, who definitely does not take his food lightly. Once they moved out of Lincoln Park and into the suburbs to raise me, the frequency

of their visits declined, but that didn't stop them from bringing me into the city for birthday or anniversary celebrations over chicken and beer from the pub next door. Over the years, we've had the pleasure of getting to know multiple waiters along with the valet, easily bonding with them through chats in Spanish. Aside from the amazing food, it's the friendly faces of the staff and the free dessert they bring us every time we visit that keeps us coming back.

Perhaps our most memorable visit was the day we drove into the city to pick up our newest addition to the family: our adopted doxie Parker. Our initial plan was to simply grab our chicken kalamata dinners in take-out containers since dogs weren't allowed into the dining room. It was also snowing, so that eliminated the outside seating option. Luckily, our friends on the staff pulled a few strings and provided us with a cozy spot in a booth at the pub next door, the Glascott Saloon, and served us right there and then, Parker included. The mini plate of chicken and Greek fries they brought out for our obese, food-loving pup was the best welcome-home present imaginable.

As a family-owned business, it's not hard to see why The Athenian Room fosters such a genuine, caring atmosphere for its customers. Whether you visit with friends, a partner, or family (dogs included, of course), The Athenian Room never fails to provide impeccable food, personable staff, and lovely memories you'll be able to keep for years to come. Be sure to try the chicken kalamata dinner—it's wiener dog approved, after all!



Parker gives The Athenian Room two paws up! (Photo by Andrea Torres).

CREATIVE CONNECTIONS

Darndest Things

While we don't advise listening to other peoples' private conversations, sometimes you can't help but overhear the very strange things they say around campus.

"This is the longest mile I've ever walked."	"I have too many spatulas."	"Home is where the sandwiches are."
	"Well, that's not a bagel!"	
"If you haven't taken a nap— TAKE A NAP!"	"My parents think I'm buying school supplies, but I'm going to pick up a Starbucks gift card."	
"Pokémon Go is like a drug addiction."	"Some days, caffeine isn't enough."	"I don't have free time."
		"Can someone help me find my lip chap?"
"All of a sudden, a wolf pops out of your bra."	"If I'm talking to you, I don't like you. If I like you, I'm probably avoiding you."	
"I like to f*ck with people's emotions. It's so fun!"		"I am SO done with education right now."

Spoken Word Performance: People of DePaul and Chicago

By Patrick Mont

"This isn't your grandmother's poetry reading," Kevin Coval said at the beginning of his spoken word performance. Coval, a local poet, educator, and activist, chose six performers from different classes at DePaul to read their works at a special Family Weekend event on Saturday, October 14.

I initially went in blind, only knowing a few speakers, but I found myself surprised by the different types of poems that were performed. Professor Ann Stanford and Chicago Quarter Mentor Meg Harris from the Grassroots Writing in Chicago Honors Discover course each performed a spoken word poem that spoke of their positive and negative feelings of their hometowns. Other speakers presented pieces in both poetry and song about their culture and race. One of the final performers was Femdot, also a DePaul student, who performed several of his songs, including some from his new album. Coval also shared his poems from his most recent book *A People's History of Chicago*.



Coval then talked about Young Chicago Authors, a community organization that offers poetry workshops and open mic nights on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Every Tuesday night, Young Chicago Authors hosts WordPlay, which boasts the title of the longest-running youth open mic night in Chicago.

As the artistic director of Young Chicago Authors, Coval invited anyone interested in performing or improving their writing to come by. He also encouraged them to become involved with Louder Than a Bomb, a youth poetry festival in Chicago that the guest performer Femdot was also involved in. Louder Than a Bomb has become the largest youth poetry festival in the world after being co-founded by Coval.

I thoroughly enjoyed this event. The quality of the work was good and the mood was so positive it made me forget the downpour happening outside. The emotion that each performer conveyed when speaking their poem

or song brought a whole new level to their performances and made them more personal. I will make sure to swing by the open mic night and listen to the spoken word being produced by DePaul students, working-class citizens, and anyone who wants their voice to be heard.

Young Chicago Authors is located at 1180 N. Milwaukee Ave. For more information on WordPlay open mic night, workshops, educational programs, and the Louder Than a Bomb youth poetry festival, visit www.youngchicagoauthors.org.



CQM Meg Harris (left) read her poem at the DePaul Family Weekend Event hosted by local author and poet Kevin Coval (right). See Meg's poem "I am born of" on Page 21.

I am born of

By Meg Harris

I am born of field trips to the museums
I'm born of senator's children and kids on pre-paid lunches
I'm born of protesters
The Potomac River
And metro conductors voices shouting directions only we can understand
I am born of
Where the stone paths on the National Mall finds
My green shutters
Through Burke Lake
NOVA
The DMV
No, not the Department of Motor Vehicles
Politicians speaking about what is best for the neighbor they've never met
How can we be united when we don't know where we stand?
Did you know the hate you spue refers to your friend next to you?
I'm not here for you
I'm here for family
For running trip to pastries
The National Christmas tree
I'm hip
Not cool
Not down
I'm hip
I agree
I am born of weather's hormones and potted trees
My birth place
I wish I could hear you louder.

Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner—September 12, 2017

By Carolyn Kedryna

HEY!!!!

Good Morning!

Hi.

Cześć.

Do you want to go sit over there?

Good Morning Professor.

What can I get for you today?

How was it at school?

Yeah, it's so quiet over here.

Congratulations on making it to your first week of school.

I'll get a bowl, to-go.

It was ok.

I hate it.

How's the weekend?

Brown or white rice?

What does that mean?!

Well, it looks like we can't sit anywhere.

Fine (I guess)

Brown rice.

Well, I'm super exhausted...

Let's go sit in the classroom.

Bears?

Black or pinto beans?

Ok, ok here is some taco meat, but there aren't any more tortillas.

But I think there's a class in there right now

Could've stole one...

Black beans. Thank you.

I got it, lemme just grab some chips.

OHHH right...

Cubbies?

Any kind of meat?

Karolina! You have to heat it up, c'mon now.

Let's just sit on the stairs, no one's here anyway.

UGH, Terrible. Alright... The Cubs are going to have a good fall and so are we.

Chicken will do.

I can do whatever I want.

Yeah, we'll be able to get to class early too.

So, I pulled up Cengage, um, nearly everybody has successfully been able to log on.

Thank you.

Would you like some queso? Queso?

Fine, but don't come complaining to me later that your stomach hurts.

Sooooooo, did you answer that Honors email? About the faculty dinner?

Click on Chapter 1. You'll see a something of a summary that will give you an overview of the chapter.

No (that's an extra cost, I think?)

OK, FINE. I'll heat it up.

Tuesday's meals were nothing special. Who cares what I had for breakfast?

Winter Quarter Calendar of Events

Tuesday, January 2	First Day of Winter Quarter classes
Friday, January 5	HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404
Monday, January 15	University Closed—Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Holiday
Friday, January 19	HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404
Friday, February 2	HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404
Wednesday, February 7	Winter Theatre Outing— <i>Native Son</i> , Theatre Building, 2350 N. Racine
Friday, February 16	HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404
Tuesday, February 20	Student Faculty Dinner—5:00 p.m., TBD
Friday, March 2	HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404
Tuesday, March 20	End of Winter Quarter 2018

Welcome, Caroline!

Honors Student Government would like to extend a warm welcome to its newest board member! Caroline Schlegel will join the HSG team as the layout and design editor of *Honorable Mentions*. Caroline is a freshman studying graphic design from Bolingbrook, IL, .

Visit the DePaul Honors Program's Web Page:

academics.depaul.edu/honors

“Peace is worth more than all wordly possessions.”

Saint Vincent dePaul

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