



HM

HONORABLE MENTIONS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: To our soon-to-be graduates: look back and reflect upon what you have accomplished these last four years at DePaul. Be proud of your hard work and all that you have learned. Treasure the friends you made and the memories you made with them at DePaul. But don't forget to look forward to making your future the best it can be. Be generous of spirit and be kind to others. Be happy. And, most importantly, always wear comfortable shoes.

SPRING 2015

A collaboration by DePaul University's Honors Program

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THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED!

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Send submissions to hsgnewsletter@gmail.com

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HONORABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

HONORABLE GRADUATES

You made it! Congratulations to all of those graduating from the Honors Program. It's been an exciting four years, but the best is yet to come!

Hanna Alshaikh	Hannah Feagans
Kathleen Anaza	Alexandra Fedorak
Amelia Augustine	Jonathan Ferrari
Joshua Baigelman*	Samia Ferris-Garrett
Cristian Barrera	Katharine Fiala
Alexis Baughman	Claire Flaherty
Rachel Bay	Nicholas Flatley
Emily Beh	Isabel Flores
Nicole Beuerlein	Alexander Forloine
Joe Boesso	Fabian Fraire
Brandon Bogard	Emily Franz
Robert Bogolin	Makenzi Fricker
Elvira Botello	Kevin Fronckiel
Angela Bouche	Rosa Gallagher
Michelle Brady	Elizabeth Gaughan
Victoria Brazen	Gabrielle Goldstein
Erin Bruemmer	Christopher Gomez
Lukasz Budolak	Allison Grecco*
Alexis Bugajski	Taylor Greif
Michelle Burton	Michelle Grochocinski
Daniel Canby	Sam Groeteke
Jacklyn Canova	Zachary Gross
Abby Carballido	Jack Guffey
Jose Chavez	Aaron Gundersheimer
Cameron Ciesil	Delaney Halpin
Larena Code	Dane Hansen
Summer Concepcion	Anna Hanson
Michael Conroy	Andrew Harding
Victoria Corbisiero	Kelsey Haslam
Emily Creek	Kennedy Healy
Avery Cunningham	Malcolm Herbert
Lauren Dacy	Ashley Holden
Kayla DeCant*	Michael Hoppenrath
Jennifer DePoorter	Andrew Huber
Lori Dilger	Patrick Humpal
Sean Dirr	Natellie Ibarrientos
Rachael Driussi	Nicholas Ioriatti
Carley Dubinski*	Dana Jabri
Brooke Dugan	Jeanette Jara
Robert Egeling	Melissa Jayne

Isabelle Johnson
Alexandra Kaczmarek
Kimberly Kaczmarek
Margaret Kane
Samantha Kania
Christina Karahalios
Alfreda Kavaliauskaite
Amy Kellenberger
Robert Kelsey
Sanna Kenney
Alexander Kfoury
Lauren Koehler
Emma Kolander

Rory Mencin
Joanna Mendoza
Nicholas Meryhew
Serena Miller
Matthew Morley
Rhea Morrison
Brynn Murphy
Kathy Nalepka
Maggie Nance
Erin Neacy
Mitchell Olsem
Siobhan O'Neill
Johanna Orr

Jennifer Soto
Jana Specht
Mihir Surati
Gianna Sutley
Adam Syvertsen
Remy Terle
Neda Tolooi
Kaitlynn Tracy
Karolina Trzaska
Grecia Valadez
Ashley Valentin
Jacqueline Victoria
Jessica Vodnik



YOU'RE OFF TO GREAT PLACES! TODAY IS YOUR DAY! YOUR MOUNTAIN IS WAITING, SO... GET ON YOUR WAY!"

DR. SEUSS, OH, THE PLACES YOU'LL GO!

Matthew Krasno
Connor Kreger
Robert Lark
Seamus Leahy
Daniel Letchinger
Matthew Lithgow
Steven Logan
Eric Long
Daniel Lopez
Kirsten Lopez*
Heidi Luczynski
Sara Ellen Mahoney
Margaret Manzie
Abigail Marchione
Alyssa Marcy
Melanie Markay
Katherine Martin
Savana Martin
Anthony Mattingly
Vincent Mauro
Kelsey McCann
Emma McCartney
Claire McDonal
Jennifer McDunn
Michael Meidl
Marcelo Mellijor

Elizabeth Palisin
Rachel Paulus
Michael Pearson
Kirsten Peterson
Alyssa Phelan
Lauren Polcyn
Vanessa Rangel
Caleigh Renkosiak
Daniel Rife
Brendan Roa
Emma Rubenstein
Daniel Saam
Chelsey Sanford
Valerie Schoonover
Daile Schubert
Culley Schultz
Lukas Shadair
Benjamin Sharpe
Lauren Shuler
Kathryn Siede
Emily Simon
Trevor Simon
Ryan Sison
Stephanie Sketl
Emily Snider
Pamela Solares

Hannah Vogel
Randall Vollrath
Matthew Von Nida
Stacey Wagner
Sarah Walsh
Therese Walsh
Hannah Ward
Jacob Ward
Peter Warpinski
Carmen Wilke
Frances Williams
Whitney Williams
Sean Witry
Daniel Wood
Madeline Woods
Kevin Wynn
Payton Zemke

*Honors Associate Program Graduate

HONORABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Writing Showcase

Congratulations to the following Honors Program freshmen who were featured in the First Year Programs Writing Showcase that took place on May 20th in Cortelyou Commons.

HON 111: Elizabeth Hopwood, "Faces of Corruption"
Instructor: Douglas Long

HON 100: Yasmin Mitchel, "Dramaturgy and Copyright: World of Ambiguity"
Instructor: Mike Raleigh

HON 111: Rachel Perzynski, "Isolated Son"
Instructor: Douglas Long

HON 100: Brooke Robinson, "Chicago Public Housing: Has the failure of the past paved a way to a brighter future?"
Instructor: Susan Jacobs

HON 100: Miko Stulajater, "The Foods of Yesteryear"
Instructor: Joyce Miller Bean

HON 100: Laura Williams, "Slicing the Conventional Eye: An Introduction to Surrealist Cinema"
Instructor: Joyce Miller Bean

MEET YOUR 2015-2016 HONORS STUDENT GOVERNMENT LEADERS!

Congratulations to the newly elected 2015-2016 Honors Student Government Executive Board.

Kristina Pouliot
President

Kyle Rezwin
Vice President

Joe Bencomo
Treasure/OrgSync Coordinator

Margaret Bialis
SGA Liaison

Taylor Gillen
Director of Marketing

Rocky Radenbaugh
Director of Social Media

Tom Rietz & Hanna Selekman
Academic Committee Chairs

Roy Curiale & Megan Koenig
Social Committee Chairs

Ally Carvalho & Helen Kinskey
Service Committee Chairs

Taylor Marcel
Honors Ambassador Chair

Theresa Bailey & Taylor Marcel
Newsletter Editors

HONORABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS



DID YOU KNOW?

As a DePaul student, you have a free membership to the Chicago History Museum! This remarkable museum houses collections and exhibits focusing on a variety of events and periods of Chicago history. There are many interactive exhibits – you can sit in an old L car, you can see objects that were melted in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, and hear actual recordings of famous Chicago blues artists.

It's a quick trip from campus! The Museum is easy to reach via public transportation. CTA buses 22, 36, 72, 73, 151, and 156 stop nearby. The Brown Line Sedgwick station and Red Line Clark/Division station are also located approximately one half-mile from the Museum. For travel information, visit transitchicago.com.

To find out more about your membership benefits, go to: www.chicagohistory.org/support/membership/depaul

DEPAUL'S ANNUAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The Honors Program was well represented at DePaul's annual History Conference, which took place on Friday, May 1st. Listed below are the students who participated in the conference and the titles of their projects:

Rosa Gallagher – “Call You It a Victory, Then”: Reframing the Fort Sumter Defeat as Union Triumph by 1985”

Justin Glenn – “An Analyst at Work: Ada Lovelace and the Creation of the “Notes”

Sean Hux – “Deafened by the Bomb: A Discourse Analysis of the Term “Anarchy” in the Context of the Haymarket Affair and Late Nineteenth Century Chicago”

Scott Jones – “Epistolary Correspondence in the Indian Army, Europe: 1914-1918”

Kirsten Lopez – “What Lurks Within Us: the Symbolism of Human-Animal Metamorphosis in Yonac and Bisclavret”

Matthew Morley – “Civil War or Genocide?: The United Nations' Misunderstanding of the Third Balkan War in the 1990's”

Daniel Rife – “Australian Propaganda Posters in the Great War: Contrasting English Roots with an Australian Future, 1914-1918”

Brittany Schmitt – “The Bryce Report and the American Public: Anti-German Rhetoric as Propaganda”

HONORS EVENTS

CLASS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

(Left) Physics Professor Mary Bridget Kustusch took her HON 225: Solar Energy class out to Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont for a visit on Monday, April 20th.

(Below) On Saturday, May 16th, students in Professor Bernhard Beck-Winchatz's HON 225: Science at the Edge of Space class traveled to Lexington, IL to launch a weather balloon as part of the classroom experience.



HONORS EVENTS



PIZZA WITH A PROFESSOR: ROSE SPALDING

KRISTINA POULIOT

In my three years so far as an Honors Student at DePaul, I have only known Rose Spalding as the calm, poised, and eloquent Director of the DePaul University Honors Program. So, attending the April 24th event “Pizza with a Professor” that featured Dr. Spalding presenting the research published in her most recent book *Contesting Trade in South America: Market Reform and Resistance* was a fascinating opportunity for me to see a different side of our esteemed Program Director.

Before attending this event, I knew very little regarding Dr. Spalding’s academic pursuits. I knew that her area of academic expertise was Political Science. I also had a vague inkling that her work had taken her to areas of Central America. These two tidbits of information were a vague, but accurate foundation for the lecture I attended.

Dr. Spalding began her talk with a humble introduction and a sly joke and then launched into the topic of her book. *Contesting Trade in Central America: Market Reform and Resistance* is a work that explores the vast complexities of trade economies and politics between the United States, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and El Salvador. She spoke for about 45 minutes.

I could not do Dr. Spalding’s fascinating work justice by summarizing it here. If you are interested in the complexities of

South American Trade agreements, by all means, read her book, which is easily available through Amazon! Rather, this piece is an attempt for me to share my joy and awe of being surrounded by such incredible faculty in the DePaul Honors Program.

I already knew that Dr. Spalding has made great contributions to the DePaul community. But, learning from her talk made me realize that she has made incredible contributions to the greater academic community, beyond Chicago and DePaul. Seeing this side of Dr. Spalding really reinforced (in me, at least) how incredible it is to be at an institution where we are surrounded by gifted and brilliant people.

Our faculty and professors work to make a difference in our personal lives by teaching us courses or helping us navigate through university life. They also, incredibly, are making a difference in countless other ways by contributing knowledge and skills through their outside research endeavors.

It is so easy to get caught up in our routine interactions and relationships. We easily forget to look around and see the amazing things our peers are doing for the world. Dr. Spalding is certainly someone who is doing great things for DePaul and beyond.

HONORS EVENTS

HONORS RESEARCH CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

YASMIN MITCHEL

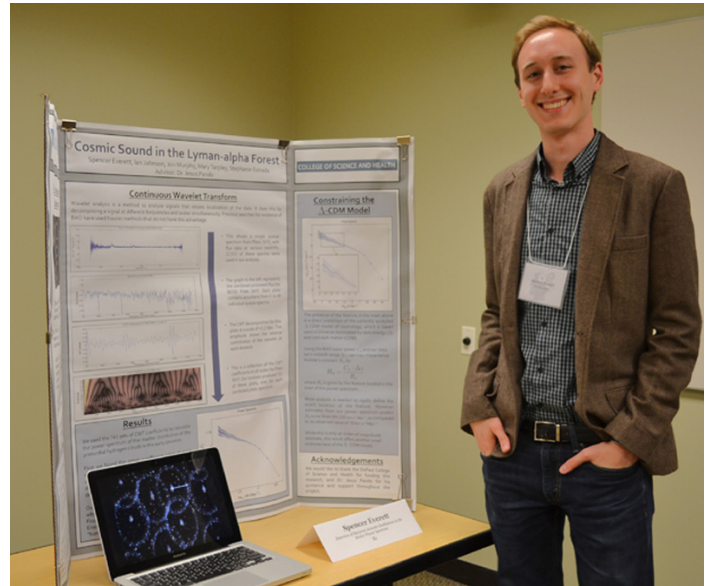
Reading, researching and writing all make up a majority of a college student's homework. At the end of each quarter, as students participating in the Honors Program, we have written anywhere from five to twenty pages of content. We've spent weeks sifting through JSTOR, reading articles and analyzing perspective. Usually, once a paper is submitted we never go back to it. It becomes another assignment that lives in D2L. But it doesn't have to be this way. Huge research proposals and intense writing projects do not have to be hidden away, in the depths of quarters past. The Honors Student Research Conference provides Honors Students with an outlet for their work to be known.



THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP CRUCIAL PUBLIC SPEAKING SKILLS HAS NEVER BEEN MORE VALUABLE"

Interestingly enough, translating a written work into something that can be presented in an engaging way to a diverse group, both in education level and specific interests, is actually quite difficult. How does one take a ten-page research paper and whip it into a five to seven minute speech with a power point accompaniment? In an effort to make this process less daunting, each student accepted into the conference was required to attend a Research Conference Workshop/Rehearsal. I attended one of the sessions on Friday, April 24th in the Richardson Library Scholar's Lab from 1:00 to 3:00.

There were about fifteen of us in this first session. We were broken up into small groups and then paired with a professor who led the workshop. Although our topics ranged from sci-fi/rom-com film-making to burial rituals in ancient Italy, the professor was able guide us through the process of turning our papers into engaging presentations. Although it may seem overwhelming to participate in such conferences, the experience is truly rewarding. Not only does the Honors Research Conference provide a platform for students to inform peers and professors on fascinating otherwise unknown topics, but it also provides the opportunity to develop crucial public speaking skills that have never been more valuable.



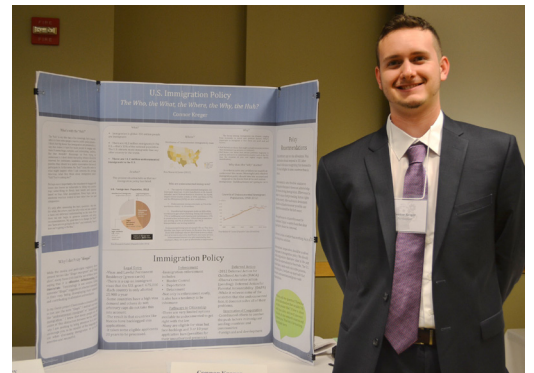
HONORS RESEARCH CONFERENCE AND SPOTLIGHT ON CREATIVITY

On Friday, May 15, the second annual Honors Student Conference: Spotlight on Research and Creativity took place in the Lincoln Park student center. Sixty one Honors Program students presented their best work in the form of panels, posters, and presentations. Of those 61 students, 41 students presented their senior thesis projects. A welcome by both Honors Program Director Rose Spalding, and Liberal Arts & Social Sciences Interim Dean Lucy Rinehart opened the conference. Thesis posters and projects were displayed in Room 314, and conference attendees made their way to several breakout session rooms on the third floor of the Student Center. Each room hosted students presenting on similar topics, ranging from Literary Experiences to Social Constructions: Morality, Legality, & Mortality, Entrepreneurial Innovation, Creativity & Imagination, and Representations. To see photos from the conference, see the following page, and go to: <http://academics.depaul.edu/honors/current-students/Pages/research-conference.aspx>

HONORS EVENTS



HONORS STUDENT CONFERENCE: SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH AND CREATIVITY



HONORS EVENTS

SENIOR GALA SUNDAY, MAY 17TH

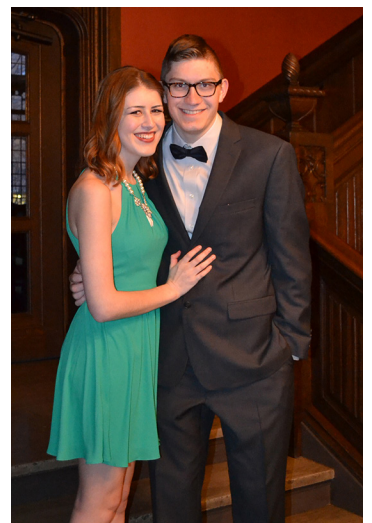
Graduating seniors enjoy food, champagne, and the company of their friends and peers as they are recognized for their accomplishments at the Senior Gala



HONORS EVENTS

HONORS BALL 2015

Honors students dressed up and danced in Cortelyou Commons at the annual Honors Ball on Friday, April 10th.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

BE A LEADER, BE A FRIEND, BE OF SERVICE: HONORS PROGRAM STUDENTS LEAD SERVICE FRATERNITY ON CAMPUS

DAMIAN WILLE AND AMANDA LEICHLITER

DePaul's Vincentian Values of serving the community and socially responsible leadership are exemplified through Alpha Phi Omega. Alpha Phi Omega (APO) is the nation's largest co-ed service fraternity, and boasts alumni such as Michelle Obama, Hilary Clinton and the Bush family, to name a few. Honors Program students Damian Wille and Amanda Leichliter will lead DePaul's chapter of APO this coming year. They were elected into their positions in March and will be serving an entire year as President and Vice President of Membership, respectively.

The organization has three main pillars: Leadership, Friendship and Service. The chapter currently has 75 members including many Honors Program students. On the executive board alone, in addition to Damian and Amanda, MK Verdun and Ted Jesionowski serve as service co-chairs.

With the help of the remaining 5 members of the executive board, the students organize a wide variety of service, fellowship and leadership events. The main focus of the fraternity is to allow members to serve the community as much as possible, make friends along the way, and build upon leadership skills. Some of the members' favorite service events include volunteering at the Chicago Marathon, Hot Chocolate Run, Boy Scout Gala and other events around the city.

The organization also puts on its annual fundraiser, APOlympics, in February to raise money and awareness for deserving charities. This year, 10 teams competed for a charity of their choice and the winner, Sigma Chi, won \$850 for The American Heart Association.

In addition to that event, the chapter recently won a bid to host Section 51 Day at DePaul University. Section 51 Day is an event for all of the Chicagoland chapters to come together to serve and build friendships. Within the chapter, there are a myriad of ways to create lifelong friendships through fellowship events like ChiBrotle (chapter dinner at Chipotle), Family Olympics (competing in families within the chapter) and the end-of-year banquet (beach themed this year).

The fraternity is non-selective which means that anyone and everyone can and is encouraged to join. The chapter initiates new members twice per year, once in fall quarter and once in winter quarter. During the time that members pledge, they get a taste of what it is like to be an active member of the fraternity and attend six pledge classes to learn about the rich history of the fraternity.



If you want to find more information about Alpha Phi Omega, visit www.apo.org or check out the DePaul chapter's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/apodepaul. The chapter looks forward to bringing in a record size pledge class in the fall to join in the fun of serving the community while making friends and building leadership skills. So come on out; Be a Leader, Be a Friend, Be of Service with Alpha Phi Omega.

THIS IS WHY SERVICE IMMERSION TRIPS 'RUIN' LIVES GRACIE COVARRUBIAS

Universities actively advertise the idea that college will change the everyday undergraduate's perception of the world. DePaul claims their mission and values will be the game changer for their students. They preach that DePaul is an institution that strives to give back to the communities around it by asking, "What must be done?"

In an effort to implement its mission and values into the communities nearby, DePaul offers programs based on service through their University Ministry (UMIN). Every year, UMIN offers weeklong service immersion trips in both spring and winter to a myriad of locations. The winter expeditions place students in areas of poverty in cities such as Los Angeles and Tuba City, AZ and returning immersion fanatics on international treks to Colombia or El Salvador. Similarly, spring expeditions travel to New Orleans, New York, Okolona, MS, and Cranks Creek, KY, among other places.

At first glance, one would believe that these trips hosted by the largest Catholic university in the country are a one stop shop to

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



GRACIE AND HER SERVICE IMMERSION GROUP IN OKOLONA, MISSISSIPPI

find yourself and become one with God. Do not be fooled; while these week long trips are based on the commanding principles of service that Catholicism stands for, they are not an invitation to rekindle a relationship with a higher power. Instead, they are something much more powerful. These weeklong service immersion trips are an opportunity to be transformed by communities of people you would not have otherwise met.

Just like any other undergraduate student, I was dead set on finding myself in my first year of college until I went on a service immersion trip to Okolona, Mississippi. My service immersion trip experience eradicated any preconceived notion I held regarding who I should become and the path that I should take. In fact, my service immersion trip ruined my life—it wrecked me in the absolute best way possible.

Students are tossed into groups composed of a student leader, a DePaul staff professional and other randomly selected students. Groups then travel to a designated service site and ask the community, “What must be done?” Without question or hesitation, students then fulfill those needs for a week. In that time, they explore the community and absorb everything it has to offer. Service can range from tutoring students to hosting bingo nights to building houses. The service that students

do while on these trips is fundamentally transformative. As DePaul students don this responsibility to something bigger than themselves, they cross over from ordinary DePaul student to Vincentians in Action—leaders who embody St. Vincent DePaul’s mission for service.

Service immersion trips invite students to become global learners, step outside of the picturesque confines of Lincoln Park, and venture into the all-consuming world filled with blurred lines of what is right and just in communities across the nation. Each service site is led by established community members who educate students on the social norms, problems and tensions within the communities, and for that week, students are living in a new world.

The experience in itself will change you and the person you thought you once were. It will push you far beyond your emotional and physical limits, and it will force you to become self-aware. And, without a doubt, it will transform you - if you’re brave enough to let it.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



THE DANCING DOESN'T STOP DURING THE 24TH AND LAST HOUR OF THE BIG EVENT

DEMONTHON: THE CHALLENGE

NICOLE BEUERLEIN

It all started with a casual conversation with my best friend. “Hey, you should do DemonTHON”, she suggested as we sat on her couch watching old episodes of Roseanne.

As a fourth year DePaul student who works in the Office of Student Involvement, DemonTHON was no mystery to me. Neither was the fact that my friend Melissa had been volunteering for DemonTHON for the past two years. For those of you who don't know, DemonTHON is a yearlong fundraising effort that culminates in a 24-hour dance marathon to honor the patients and families treated at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. It also celebrates the efforts of the DePaul University students who work to support these patients and families.

Despite my caring and compassionate nature, I consider myself

to have the soul of a sloth and the social anxiety of a recluse. So while the idea of raising money to donate to an amazing hospital and help out patients and their families so dear to our community seemed like a no-brainer, the thought of standing on my feet for twenty-four hours without the support of an organization or team (most people sign up with an organization, sorority, or fraternity) terrified me. My friend was a Morale Captain; her responsibilities during the event reached far past entertaining me, so I knew I would have to either make new friends or fend for myself. The thought crossed my mind to raise the money and skip out on the Big Event, revealing my true cowardice when it comes to anything involving large amounts of people. Despite my fears and second guesses, however, I knew I had to attend the

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Big Event, not only to acknowledge the hard work my best friend had put into its success, but more importantly, to be present and how my support and compassion for the children and families going through such hard and life-altering times. It didn't take me long to agree to attend, and words cannot describe how glad I am that I did.

At 4:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24th, I walked into the McGrath Arena alone and with nothing except my backpack. I was nervous and unsure as to what to expect. As I shuffled in, surrounded by packs of strangers, I anxiously awaited meeting my fellow dancers who braved the Big Event team-less. To my surprise, I was the only one of the solo dancers who showed up. Surprise! Despite this, I soon spotted my friend at the end of the welcoming committee which consisted of a loud, cheery tunnel of smiling faces, and one couldn't help but feel the infectious excitement that radiated from the Morale Captains. McGrath looked completely different from my memories; it had been completely transformed and looked ready for what the next twenty-four hours had in store. A giant stage stood facing the quietly seated crowd while a disco ball adorned the rafters. The night began with welcoming words and an instructional session that taught us (the dancers) a series of moves that made up the morale dance. The morale dance, a ten minute synchronized routine, was to be performed by everyone at the top of every hour. I soon realized that dancing relieved the pressure of our aching feet, and I began to appreciate the morale dance more and more with each passing hour. The atmosphere thrived with laughter and energy during the early hours of the evening. Games, activities, and snacks kept everyone occupied. Being without a team, I managed to muster up the strength to talk to strangers and meet new people. I struck up conversation after conversation and was caught off guard each time the new hour struck. Time was flying by and I couldn't believe how much I was enjoying myself.

Between dancing and socializing, my favorite and, in my opinion, the most beautiful part about the Big Event took place. Families and children, all either patients or frequent inhabitants of Children's Hospital, took the stage to share their stories. The smiles on their faces as they thanked DePaul for these donations were truly contagious; as I looked around, I noticed the entire crowd reflected their energy, no matter if it was eight in the evening or two hours before the end of the event. Only a few tears managed to escape as I empathized with not only the patients, but their families as well. I could relate, as my baby sister was once dependent on the hospital for her life. I remember the fear and anxiety that encapsulated my family, not to mention the financial burden we had to bear. I was constantly reminded why I was there. Things aren't quite as scary when you have the support of an entire community. To these families we represent hope, we represent laughter, and we represent a life that is lived to the



NICOLE BEUERLEIN (DANCER) AND MELISSA JAYNE (MORALE CAPTAIN) DURING THE BIG EVENT

fullest. We've created bright memories for the darkest days, and nothing will be able to take those away.

As the sun began to shine through the arena doors and the streets once again teemed with life, our feet ached and our backs were sore. Our hair was messy and quite frankly, we all smelled a little funky. But this was nothing compared to the fullness of our hearts that morning. Nothing will beat the feeling of that last morale dance. The children and their families were at the center of it all, dancing their hearts out with an energy I can't even describe. At the last second of the twenty fourth hour, excited gazes were stuck on the screen. \$257,048.12. The number shone as we dropped to our knees. Tears filled the eyes of some while others laughed and cheered. Personally, I sat there with my jaw dropped. I couldn't believe a group of four hundred students could raise that much money, and I couldn't believe that I helped make that happen.

I aim to achieve a couple things from sharing my Demon-THON perspective. First and foremost, I want to show my appreciation to DemonTHON for providing an amazing support system and for bringing inspiration to our community. I'd like to commend those who work tirelessly all year to make miracles happen and say congratulations to all of the dancers who made it through the pain and the dark hours. But secondly, I'd like to take this opportunity to point out that this perspective, my perspective, would have never existed had I not taken a chance and stepped away from my comfort zone. Sometimes things may seem impractical, scary, or overwhelming, but in the end it is so insignificant compared to what others go through daily. The impact you have, whether it be on one person or an entire community, is beautiful and appreciated. Get out there. Do something that scares you. Become the support system you may one day need. I promise you, you won't regret it.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

CHI-TOWN IS DRAFT TOWN

ZOE KREY

The 2015 NFL Draft left New York this year for the Windy City, and the streets of Chicago were revamped into what was dubbed Draft Town.

While I can't exactly call myself a football fan, I went partly so my dad could live vicariously through me and experience the draft. Raised as a Chicago Bears fan, I donned my Chicago Coach Ditka shirt and went to go check it out.

Having no expectations for Draft Town, I wasn't quite sure what to expect. I went on Saturday, which was the last day of the draft. While people wearing various teams' jerseys beside me hooted and hollered, I observed from afar, not having a clue as to what was going on. Despite not understanding anything around me, the atmosphere was upbeat and the weather outside was flawless. I found myself enjoying how happy the crowd was. Sports fans galore were in their element as they walked from apparel tent to beer tent to Hall of Fame tribute. ESPN had its own station and were live broadcasting straight from the event. Select players were signing autographs and a music concert was scheduled to end the event later that night.

Grant Park was the perfect location for Draft Town. It was amazing to see what the NFL Draft did with the space they had. The sprawling arrangement included all sorts of different tents and even participatory games for visitors to play. Draft Town was extremely family friendly, and it was entertaining to see all the kids walk around in amazement, many of them die hard football fans.

At times I felt like I was taking up space that the true football fans of the world could have used. Not that it was overly crowded or packed, but I felt guilty that many people who had the ability to look at the Hall of Fame display and identify all the players weren't there and I was. But then I would remind myself that I was there for my dad and that seemed to justify my presence at the NFL Draft.

While I'm not completely sport inept, when it comes to football, I'm pretty clueless. It's ironic because my parents are huge football fans and we used to spend every Sunday with half the neighborhood at my house watching the game. You would think I would've at least retained something...

I did observe something quite spectacular at Draft Town however. The casual, subtle nod given to anyone that was representing the same team as you was exchanged over and over again between strangers. In order to blend in with my fellow football fans, I decided to give "the nod" the ol' college try. As I saw a man passing by with a Bears jersey on approaching my



general area, I cocked my head back and pulled it forward ever so subtly. At this point, my sunglasses on my head fell off and I shot to the ground trying to save them because they're my favorite pair. While I didn't get a chance to see if he exchanged my nod, I did save my sunglasses. If that doesn't sum up my feelings towards football, I don't know what does.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



NEW THEATER GROUP AT DEPAUL IS HERE TO STAY

SAM SCHWINDT

It's a normal night in October of 2014, and Peter Bucci is lounging on the couch in the 3rd floor kitchen of Seton Hall. He lets out a breath, crosses one leg over the other, and glances to the left as the door opens. In walks Gabe Reiss, who quickly surveys the room until his eyes land on Peter. Gabe raises his eyebrows, and asks, "Hey, what's up?" They talk for a bit, exchanging the mundane pleasantries about the weather, until Peter suddenly states, "I want to start a theater company."

On that simple evening in October, Open Theater Group and Springboard Theater Company were born.

Peter Bucci, a first year student from Rhode Island, has a dream to own his own theater company. Gabe Reiss, another freshman from Madison, Wisconsin has a dream to be a director. Together, however, they have a dream to build a community of individuals who are passionate for theater at DePaul University.

At DePaul University, if you are not a theater major, there are not many opportunities to act, write, or simply participate in theater due to the conservatory status of the Theater school. Peter and Gabe saw a lack of opportunity, and so wanted to provide a creative outlet to those non-majors—including themselves. Springboard Theater Company, and the parent organization Open Theater Group, desires to focus on building a community of writers, actors, performers, and creative individuals passionate about self-expression.

"We're a theater space without a space," says artistic director Peter Bucci. "We want to springboard people into theater."

Already, Springboard Theater Company is a success. On the opening night of their first production, Agatha Christie's "The Mousetrap," all seats were filled in Cortelyou Commons. At their second event, "A Night of Stories," the seats were just as filled as students and professors went up and told funny, emotional, and inspiring stories from their lives.

Springboard Theater Company encourages all students and faculty to approach them with their work. "If you have any foundation of anything," says Creative Director Gabe Reiss, "Come talk to us."

It looks as though Springboard Theater Company is here and here to stay, so be sure to visit their website and check out their next event at www.springboardtheater.com.

ONE YEAR MORE

THERESA BAILEY

As students, going to college isn't just about making friends, exploring Chicago, or going to Fest; we're all here to get our degrees and, hopefully, to find jobs in the fields we are studying. As more and more people graduate with Bachelor's degrees, students are beginning to look toward further education to differentiate themselves from the field. At DePaul, this is especially easy with the abundance of five-year Master's degree programs.

The five-year program is an ingenious way of earning your Master's and saving money. Instead of spending two years as a graduate student, a DePaul student takes some graduate classes as a senior and finishes their degree in their fifth year. Programs typically ask students to apply sometime during their junior year. On top of that, with the DePaul Double Demon Discount, the final year of graduate classes is discounted by a whopping 25%!

There are many different five-year programs through most of the DePaul colleges, though not every major has a corresponding five-year program. Some of these programs include special certifications, like the English Department's Master's in Writing and Publishing or the Writing, Rhetoric, and Discourse Department's Certificate to Teach English as a Second Language.

No matter your major, DePaul's various five-year Master's programs might be a way to get ahead in your field at a discounted price. Be sure to talk to your advisor to see what the best option is for you!

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Hey!

When was the last time you got a letter? No, not a letter from your dentist or to pay bills — one from someone you care about? (No, birthday cards don't count.)

With the rise of the internet, people have almost completely dropped writing letters. Instead they text, make a phone call, Skype, or write emails. It might not seem like a big difference — either way you communicate what is necessary and either way your audience will probably get the message... But there is something different about writing a letter.

I've been pen-pal-ing my friend who moved to Florida since my freshman year of college — three years now. Take it from me, a girl who loves technology ~~enough~~ ^{in almost} all forms, that writing a letter is a much better way to stay connected to the people you miss. At least once a month, usually more, I'll sit down and think about all the things I've done, need to do, concern me, or remind me of my friend — and she does the same. Be honest: do you really do that when you Skype someone? What about when you email them? I've lost almost all of my other high school friends because we aren't in each other's lives. By writing these letters, I've been able to stay involved; not to mention it's also somewhat therapeutic! Honestly though

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

It also has shown me so much about relationships: how easy it is to lose them, who seriously will be there when I need them, and how the extra effort to just sit down and concentrate on one person does a world of difference. Finding someone who will write consistently to you is truly a blessing.

Best Wishes,
Heather Dove

P.S. It's also just an awesome feeling to see a physical letter waiting for you every month that ISN'T some obligation!

