

HONORABLE MENTIONS

The background image is a photograph of a university hallway. The walls are light-colored with dark wood trim. On the left, there is a door with an arched window and a sign that reads "CHARLTON LIBRARY". Further down the hallway, there are several arched doorways. At the end of the hallway, there is a large stained glass window with multiple panels depicting religious scenes. The ceiling has recessed lighting.

Winter 2022

A collaboration by
DePaul University's Honors Program

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On the cover: John T. Richardson Library at DePaul University.

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HONORABLE UPDATES

Words from the HSG President

By Elizabeth Whitcomb

When contemplating what to write for this publication that encompasses the winter quarter, I cannot help but think back on my first winter quarter at DePaul. It was the only other winter quarter I had experienced in person. First-year me was still trying to navigate college life and make new friends. This was all turned upside down in the last week of the quarter. I am, of course, talking about when the pandemic hit hard in March 2020, two full years ago. I sat in my HON 104: Religious Worldviews and Ethical Perspectives class when the email popped up in my inbox announcing that DePaul was going fully online. Everyone in the class looked around at each other, not sure what to make of the situation. We all anticipated the news, as other universities had shut down earlier that week, yet it still felt like a shock.

Despite the email announcement, the class continued. I gave the most hectic presentation of my life while continuously getting distracted by the racing thoughts in my brain. Within a few days, I had moved back home, along with everyone else at the university. The past two years have only escalated from that moment. From global lockdowns to a historic U.S. election to wildfires, we all continue to somehow survive.

Whenever I feel discouraged by schoolwork and simply do not want to do my homework, I remind myself that we are still living in the midst of a pandemic and have experienced more stressors in the past two years than were ever anticipated.

Those last few days of the winter quarter were the beginning of a crazy two, and most likely more, years. All of our college experiences were redefined in the blink of an eye. Here is to hoping that week 10 of winter quarter 2022 brings us all better memories than mine from two years ago.

Honors Student Government kicked off the new year with various opportunities for interaction and participation with Honors students. Five meetings have taken place this quarter, occurring every other Friday at 3:30 pm. We have maintained a hybrid format, allowing students to join in person or through Zoom, continuing to encourage accessible options for all students.

Our social committee chairs, Anna and Zeeshan, planned some great events so far this year. To celebrate the season of love, they held a movie night in February. While *La La Land* (2016) played, we made valentines and ate candy hearts. Zeeshan was especially pumped to go to a basketball game with other Honors students. Look out for more opportunities to socialize with other Honors students in the upcoming months!

Service is key to DePaul's philosophy and this is also evident within HSG. Bethany and Joana, our wonderful service chairs, are volunteering at the Shamrock Shuffle on March 20th. If you are interested in lending a helping hand, feel free to reach out!

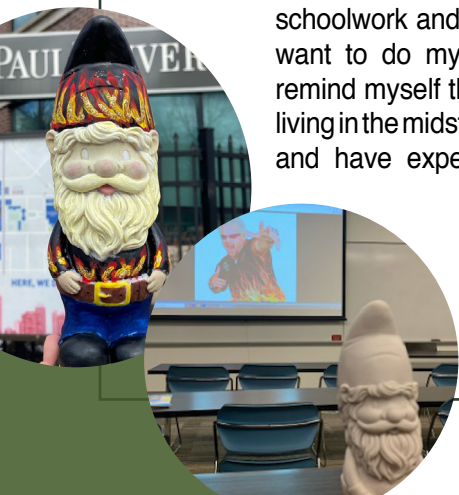
In January, we held an Open Forum Discussion for Honors students to share their thoughts on the Honors Program. A survey was sent out afterward for those who could not attend. The feedback received serves as an insight into



what students like and dislike in the Honors Program. The academic representatives and I presented the results to the University Honors Program Committee. We brainstormed ways to adjust the curriculum to better meet the needs of students. More updates to come on that!

Last but certainly not least, I would like to announce our new board member. The one, the only, Gnome Fieri. HSG participated in DePaul's annual Gnome Hunt in which student organizations have the opportunity to decorate a gnome in any way they want. The Office of Student Involvement then hides the gnomes for students to find across campus. Our E-Board knew we wanted to go all out in decorating the gnome. We thought that painting it to look like a character of some sort would be the best option. At some point, Anna suggested Guy Fieri. It was an immediate "Yes!" from all other board members. As you can see in the photo, Anna was a rockstar and did a beautiful job painting Gnome Fieri.

Looking to the future, keep an eye out for information on the Honors Ball. We were unable to hold this event last year due to the pandemic, but are excited to bring it back this year. Our theme this year is "Night on the Red Carpet"! Please mark your calendars for Friday, April 8th, 2022 and get ready to bring your Honors friends to Cortelyou Commons for a fun night!



Gnome Fieri before and after his makeover.

Meet Priscilla Bautista, The New Honors Academic Advisor

By Eiman Navaid



A South Side native, Chicago Heights born and raised, and a DePaul Double Demon, Priscilla Bautista is the new Honors Academic Advisor.

Bautista has always been in advising-related positions, starting out in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as the New Student Coordinator, then Academic Advisor for Transfer Students before moving to the Office for Academic Advising Support where she advised undeclared, exploratory, and newly admitted transfer students. And now she is the new Academic Advisor for the Honors Program. Her role includes overseeing the Honors Student Government and their activities, directing the Honors Mentor program, and advising Transfer Honors students. Bautista said this new role has been a good shift and is different from her previous roles, as she has a new schedule every day.

"It's a different style of work in a way. With my other position, I kind of knew what my day was going to be like every day, and this is a little different, with different projects that are going on," Bautista said. "I'm learning new things. I obviously knew about the Honors Program before, but didn't work too closely with many Honors students."

Bautista also noted that it's been interesting to learn about the different programs and ways students are actively involved outside of just taking their Honors classes. Within her advising role, Bautista meets with students for advising sessions that entail discussing what kind of classes they'll be taking and their path in the Honors Program, as well as general advising in regards to things such as studying abroad or completing their Experiential Learning requirement.

"I think, as an advisor, you still have to know a little bit about the university and the resources in general, because oftentimes we're referring students to those resources," Bautista said.

In overseeing the Honors transfer students, Bautista makes sure their credits are transferring correctly and they are able to take Honors classes within their first quarter at DePaul; she also acts as their first point of contact in the Honors Program.

She also has the goal of creating a standard process for deciding which transfer student classes will cover Honors requirements. "It's all very individualized, so it's not that everybody's coming in with the same set of courses," explained Bautista. However, being able to provide transfer students with a clearer idea of which classes will count will make the already nerve-wracking process much easier for them.

With the Honors Mentor program, Bautista hopes to continue to engage students of color, specifically with the Affinity Mentor program. She hopes to connect students with each other so they can learn how to be involved.

Bautista said she relies on her personal experiences as a first-generation student to think about what students may be feeling and what they want to see happen at DePaul. She hopes to be "a welcoming presence and letting students know that my office is a safe space."

Bautista noted that these past few months have been a refresher as she realized that the new students coming in are having a much different transition experience than the standard one.

"I think it's important to let students know that they are not

alone, that they have support at the school, whether it's the Honors Program or other advisors in their college, or a faculty member or instructor," she said. "I think DePaul is a pretty welcoming place in that sense, where we do try to put students first and keep our decisions focused on what is best for the student."

Bautista adds that she's the type of advisor that is very straightforward, and won't lead any student to think that anything is impossible. Anything is possible, she said, one might just need a little bit of help along the way or a steer in the right direction.

As a student and alumna of DePaul, Bautista was, and continues to be involved with student organizations and affairs, such as her fraternity. She takes her experiences from DePaul and her involvement as a student to try and understand the students she works with now.

Bautista wants students to know that they can always rely on her, whether it's through an appointment, email, or just stopping by the office – summarizing what students can expect from her as "a welcoming face and support." In addition, she added that students should be able to connect with her through BlueStar.

"I don't have all the answers, I don't think anybody has all the answers, but I definitely do my follow-up. If something comes up in an appointment that I can't answer. I'll be there to find out what the answer is as soon as you leave my office or we get out of Zoom."

Overall, Bautista hopes that students feel confident to make an appointment with her to get the resources and answers they are looking for.

HONORABLE EVENTS

HSG Valentine's Day Movie Night

By Anna Lavalley

After a successful movie night in the fall quarter, HSG held another to celebrate Valentine's Day. The event took place on Tuesday, February 8th in the Arts and Letters Hall. The choices of movie came in a wide variety, with films such as *Princess and the Frog* (2009) and *When Harry Met Sally* (1989) in the running. In the end, *La La Land* (2016) prevailed after a student vote.

On the day of the event, the student turnout was small, but nonetheless mighty. Of the students who attended, only two had previously seen the movie, making it an entertaining and energetic night. Attendees watched the award-winning film while decorating valentines for their loved ones. HSG social committee co-chair, Zeeshan Muzammil, had perhaps the best reactions to the film, and made sure to point out the tensest moments to the rest of the students.

Participating students additionally played a guessing game, estimating how many candy hearts were in a mason jar. The correct answer was 247, but Mikykia Worsham won, guessing 235. Students left taking home goodie bags full of chocolate and candy. Thanks to everyone who came and shared the love!



Honors Ball

The 2022 Honors Ball theme has been revealed! Honors Student Government is proud to announce that the Honors Ball theme will be Night on the Red Carpet. Mark your calendars for Friday, April 8!

MENTIONS REFLECTIONS

Ukrainian Resilience Shines Through the Horrors of War: A Lesson in Courage

By Nathan Weagraff

Gunfire and explosions from Russian missile fire pierce through a night sky shrouded in smoke. Air raid sirens wail across a city under siege. In the Ukrainian capital of Kyiv, residents unable to escape westward seek shelter in overcrowded subway stations, bomb shelters, and parking garages.

Yet amidst the chaos, wreckage, and devastation there remains an unwavering defiant spirit.

As Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy valiantly declared in an online video captured from the streets of Kyiv, “We are defending our independence, our state, and it will remain so.” Although over 350,000 Ukrainians have fled to neighboring countries, recent U.S. assessment suggests that Russian forces are growing increasingly frustrated by their lack of momentum due to stiffer-than-expected Ukrainian resistance.

With the Russian invasion dragging into its fifth day, new footage continues to surface of Zelenskyy sporting bulletproof vests and visiting soldiers surrounded by his team of top political advisors. The strategy of Ukraine and Zelenskyy’s deliberate messaging campaign has provoked a remarkably palpable and unified response from Ukrainians as civilians of every age take up arms to express solidarity with their president and defend their homeland.

In stark contrast, anti-war protests have erupted in Moscow and other Russian cities as

thousands of Russian citizens risk arrest and potential criminal charges to demonstrate their opposition to Putin’s senseless war of aggression. In addition, global condemnation and the imposition of substantial sanctions from members of the international community could yield a crippling blow to Russia’s economy. Although Putin has long attempted to sanction-proof Russia since its annexation of the Crimean peninsula in 2014, his decision ordering nuclear deterrent forces to be on “high-alert” may be indicative of severe miscalculation and overreach in Ukraine. Indeed, Western speculation has grown that the Russian president’s erratic behavior, namely, launching a geopolitical earthquake fundamentally threatening the European post-war order, reflects a dictator out-of-touch with reality.

Nevertheless, the appetite for authoritarian leadership has experienced a renaissance within the last decade as various metrics analyzing global freedom indicate its 15th year of consecutive decline. As one sobering statistic released by the Freedom in the World report recently revealed, fewer than one-fifth of the world’s population lives in a country categorized as “fully free.”

While the precise causes and catalysts of this international democratic recession differ from region to region, a decline in the perceived efficacy of democratic institutions usually stems from an amalgamation of economic dissatisfaction, anxieties concerning social change, and

resentment of the status quo. Although the U.S. has made clear its support for Ukraine and approved an additional \$350 million in military aid after two prior authorizations for weapons shipments, there is nonetheless a disturbing sentiment of admiration and sympathy for Putin among a select assortment of prominent U.S. politicians and media personalities.

Last Tuesday, Tucker Carlson presented viewers of his nightly show with a bizarre series of questions that he claimed they should ask themselves as they reconsider the media’s negative characterization of Putin, such as “Has he shipped every middle class job in my town to Russia?” or “Has he ever called me a racist?” In addition, former President Trump praised Putin as a “genius,” commenting “How smart is that?” after receiving news that Putin had recognized two Russian-separatist controlled breakaway regions of Ukraine as independent. Across the political aisle, former Democratic Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard downplayed the impending Russian invasion of Ukraine last week, lambasting the Biden administration for failing to acknowledge Russia’s “legitimate security concerns.”

With this in mind, history tells us that deterioration of democracy is a gradual process. It often begins with a small circle of powerful individuals whose financial interest lies in the poverty of the majority coaxing the general public into a form of cynical complacency. In order to foster a sense of passive distrust of the

democratic system, you must first propagate the false notion that everyday citizens cannot change the conditions to which they have grown accustomed. To leaders like Vladimir Putin, a well-educated, politically active, and empowered citizenry is a nightmare scenario that must be avoided at all costs.

In closing, if the system is broken, change it. If the conversation is lacking key viewpoints, engage in the dialogue. If your voice is being suppressed, make yourself heard. But the biggest mistake of all is to believe that ordinary people lack the ability to change the world, because it

happens everyday.

Ordinary Ukrainian civilians have proven through heroic acts of selflessness and fortitude their commitment to the preservation of their country and its democratic values. The question remains: will we?



Experiencing the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit

By Rachel Hannigan

Rachel and her Dad shown with one of the many art projections featured in the Van Gogh exhibit.

Over the summer of 2021, I did what almost every other Chicagoan was doing at the time: I went to the Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit in Old Town.

I had absolutely no expectations for this exhibit. I thought I would (obviously) see some artwork by Vincent Van Gogh, but other than that, what was I supposed to see?

I ended up seeing a 40-plus minute concert. Each Van Gogh artwork was projected on the walls, the ceiling, the floor, all backed by an artfully crafted playlist that coincided with each piece of art. There were several rooms, hallways, and balconies that you could see the show from, each showing the same images from a different view. It was nothing like I had ever experienced before.

This exhibit is international, and I can see why. It was so mesmerizing to be up-close-and-personal to Van Gogh's artwork, seeing pieces that I have never seen before. Some of the works shown were just sketches of his that weren't even publicized, which was a shock to be able to see.

The Immersive exhibit closes on May 30th in Chicago, so consider going before it leaves (as a possible spring break activity?). However, they have locations all across the country to see this fascinating exhibit. If you ever get the chance, I highly recommend going to see it!

Chicago Theatre Scene & How to Get Free Tickets!

By Ben Stumpe

Theatre is back! Well, it is coming back slowly but surely. There are not hundreds of shows being produced in Chicago like there were in February of 2020, but there are still many glimmers of hope for the future. Broadway in Chicago has been open for awhile and the Off-Loop theatre scene is starting to pick up even more now that COVID-19 cases are declining. With that being said, I understand that college students are all about pinching pennies and sometimes Allende must take priority over a trip to the Nederlander downtown. However, I am here to offer everyone some affordable, and sometimes FREE, options to see theatre in Chicago.



Broadway in Chicago

1

Did you know you can see Broadway shows in Chicago for FREE as a college student? Once I found out, I never looked at Ticketmaster again. So far, I have seen Daniel Fish's *Oklahoma*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, and *Come From Away* for free in the past two months. Normally, I would spend \$35-\$65 on a ticket for these shows (just to get a cheap seat with an obstructed view). But now, I only go for free! All you have to do is sign up for the SmarTix email list through the League of Chicago Theatres. Just put your email, name, and click on the SmarTix email list here: <https://tinyurl.com/3mn9ahby>

Every now and then, the League of Chicago Theatres will email out a Google Form with specific Broadway performance dates (usually weekdays) that have free tickets for college students. You fill out the form, and on the day of the performance you visit the theatre's box office to pick-up your tickets! It's that easy!

2

Local Theatres

There are usually special offers for college students at local theatres. Special offers are not always brightly displayed on theatres' websites, but it does not hurt to send an email and ask! The Goodman Theatre has many discounted offers including day-of mezzanine level tickets and \$10 college student tickets. More information can be found here: <https://www.goodmantheatre.org/Tickets/Special-Discounts/> Student rush tickets are also available at Steppenwolf Theatre for \$15. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.steppenwolf.org/tickets--events/groups--discounts/students/>

3

Theatre at DePaul

If you do not want to travel far, no worries! DePaul has SO MANY options for watching the performing arts. DePaul Opera Theatre recently performed *Falstaff* March 9th, 11th, & 13th this quarter. The Theatre School will be performing *Tall Enough* from April 19th to May 21st and Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* from May 6th to the 15th. Student tickets for these shows are usually just \$5 to \$10.

Finally, like I always do, I am here to plug Blue Demon Theatre. BDT is a student-run theatre organization at DePaul that I started in October of 2020. It all began with a small group of theatre enthusiasts/friends, and has now grown to include up to 250 members. We produce everything from one night only events to weekend long musicals. All of our cabarets and social events are completely free for DePaul students!

Some of our upcoming shows will be *The Brink of Womanhood: An Original Musical* from April 1st to the 3rd and *Into the Woods* from May 26th to the 29th. Both of these shows will be at the Athenaeum Center and student tickets are only \$10! For more information on these shows and other ways to get involved, feel free to reach out to us at bluedemontheatre@gmail.com or visit bluedemontheatre.weebly.com.

Quality Check

By Harriette Murtland

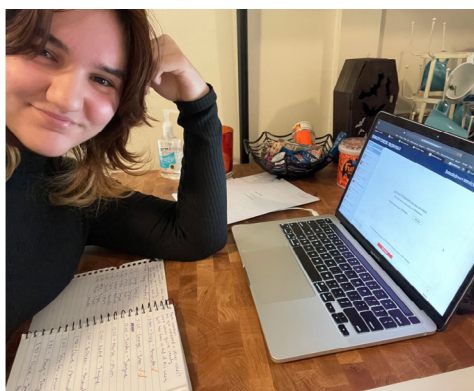


Photo Credit: Hannah Lau

My name is Harriette Murtland and I just wrapped on my first directing project last quarter. I wrote my short film within my Screenwriting LGBTQ+ Topics class and decided to take on the next step of getting it made into a film. I wanted to take you through the journey of how I turned my idea of a script into my first short film entitled *Quality Check*.

The total page number of my script came to be 12 pages after multiple revisions. Having the script ready was not the difficult part for me, it was taking the jump into the director's seat as someone who has only been studying screenwriting at DePaul. But I reminded myself that it is important to never hold yourself back within the creative journey, and to take the next step even if the little voice in your head doubts you.

So, I took the next step and I got to work with finding actors. I took this photo right before entering the first zoom audition of the day. I was very nervous as it was my first time holding auditions, but I stayed organized and trusted in the abilities I knew I had.



Harriette Murtland starting Zoom auditions.

And in the end, it worked out really well.

After another round of callbacks, I finally had my cast together. The next step was to prepare for the production. While my producer handled the outreach and paperwork, I worked with my Director of Photography to create a shot list and my lined script. Simultaneously, I helped prepare my actors for the production by holding a table read for them to go over the script together and for me to give them in depth notes.

Scene 9 - Bedroom w/ Mum argument

Description: Jayne and Mum get into an argument about Jayne seeing the endocrinologist.

Page number: 8 - 9

Notes: This scene is not an aggressive argument. The two characters have a very close mother and daughter relationship causing the argument to be more emotional as the two try to see eye to eye but fail to do so.

Character Notes:

Jayne at first doesn't want the conversation to happen. When Mum pushes the conversation forward, Jayne progressively becomes emotional. She wants her mother to understand her but she doesn't know how to explain how she feels. This has been an accumulation of frustration with herself and with the people around her who don't understand her.

Mum is very motherly in this scene and is trying to look out for Jayne, wanting her to not miss out on her experiences. To herself, she thinks she is right within the argument and she pushes for Jayne to talk about it out of her worry for her.

Here's an example of some of my notes for the actors. It's always better to over prepare than to not prepare at all, especially since it was my first time directing. I did notes like these for every scene and each character in the scene. This really helped the actors understand the intentions behind the characters within each scene, and everyone was well prepared once we got to production!

The weekend of the production finally arrived, and I almost couldn't sleep! There are so many unpredictable things that could go wrong, and I was letting myself think about them. So, I once again reminded myself to give it my all, and to have fun; it's a learning experience and nothing is perfect when you're learning.

And I did have fun, and I did learn immensely while doing so! I went for it and gave it my all and left with no regrets! Everything went smoothly during production and that was a wrap!

Now we are almost finished with the post-production process, and I still can't believe I brought this project to life! I am more than excited to finally have it finished for next quarter and show it off proudly.

Thank you everyone for reading about my journey! If you want to stay up to date with my film, you can follow its instagram page

@qualitycheck_film



Photo Credit: Hannah Lau

Casey Mae

By Annabella Battista

The first time I saw her, I knew she was mine. Her tan-colored ears flopped down to her jaw, as if cut into a bob. Her off-white fur burst out around her, surrounding her in a cloud of soft cotton curls. When she wagged her tail, it flipped over, grazing her back, fanning the air joyously. Belly rubs were her favorite. Every time I walked over to her laying on the couch or on the bed or on the chair in my room, she'd lift her hind leg, tail wagging, exposing her velvety pink stomach. When I pulled my hand away, which was always too soon for her, she tried to tap me with her front paws while still on her back. Sometimes she even sat up and nuzzled her soft head under my hand, trying to coerce me into devoting more time to her. I always did. She loved her toys, especially her rubber squeaky gorilla. She'd fling it down the stairs so that she could run and chase it. She loved long walks in the park and laying under my parents' bed and spaghetti with tomato sauce and exploring in the woods behind our house. She always alerted us whenever a car drove by or some deer wandered into our yard or a package was being delivered. She was always excited to see me, wiggling back and forth with joy, tail waving. She smiled too, teeth and all. Her name was Casey, and she was my baby.

During the pandemic, Casey provided me with so much love and comfort. I struggled a lot when all of our classes were online, when I no longer had any motivation to get out of bed, while my mom and dad continued to go to work and my sister went to high school. Pets have so

much power within their little — or sometimes extremely large — bodies. They know when we don't feel good, they can sense when we need comfort, and they distract us from the pain and stress of life when nothing else can.

Ever since that initial shutdown in 2020, they became the focus of our lives, even more so than they were before. They allowed us to get out of the house and go on walks when we may not have wanted to, and they gave us something to think about other than the confusing things that were happening all around us outside of our houses. For some, they even became a new addition to a family and turned a one-person household into a residence of two. They showed us how to find happiness in a really dark and scary time.

Even though I got Casey in 2008, almost 12 years before the pandemic, her impact on my life during that time was just as meaningful. I hope that in her last few weeks I was able to give her as much love and comfort as she gave me during that hard time. In all of her almost 14 years, she never got angry. She never got aggressive. She was only ever happy and excited and loving and gentle. I'm so thankful I got to call her mine, to have her in my life, and to take care of her. I hope that wherever she is right now, she's digging in a forest and eating spaghetti and chasing a toy down some stairs. I hope she's getting endless belly rubs and watching the wildlife. I hope that she knows how much I loved her. Thank you, Casey, for being the best dog a girl could've ever asked for.



Casey relaxing on the sunny deck.



Casey playing inside.



Annabella with both of her dogs, Casey and Nula.

My “Dolce Vita” While Studying Abroad in Italy

By Julia Matuszek

I credit three movies for being the reason I'm in film school. *Unbroken* (2014) piqued my interest, *La La Land* (2016) showed me the influence that film can have, and *Life is Beautiful* (1997) gave me the final push to commit to studying film. Any time I'm in need of some motivation all I have to do is look around me as I have artwork from *Life is Beautiful* everywhere in my life: on the VHS tape on my bookcase, hanging up on my apartment wall, and plastered on my laptop case.

It is for this reason that when I was lucky enough to attend a month-long film study abroad trip to Italy this past December, it felt like a very full circle moment for me. I was visiting the country where the film that inspired me to attend DePaul was created. And what was even crazier was that I *almost* met the man responsible for making that film, Roberto Benigni.

Let me explain. Within the program, we had the opportunity to screen the films of many accomplished Italian filmmakers and have a Q&A with them afterwards. One of these filmmakers was Matteo Garrone. He directed and co-wrote *Pinocchio* (2019) in which Benigni played Geppetto. Naturally my curiosity got the best of me, and I had to ask what it was like to work with Benigni.

Garrone shared some personal anecdotes of his time with Benigni and then noted that he was actually having dinner with him soon. Of course I begged him to tell Benigni hello from me (and I'm choosing to believe that he remembered to do so). He then went on to tell me

that there's a local pizza place that Benigni frequents every Thursday; he graciously gave me the address, and encouraged me to visit it. I of course dressed up and went to this pizzeria with my friend Jasmine, but unfortunately Benigni wasn't there. But the fact that I got within one degree of separation from him and got to experience a local favorite of his is more than I could have ever asked for!

Besides getting food recommendations and eating my weight in pizza and gnocchi, the program taught me a lot about not only Italian cinema, but about Italian culture and language as well. In only a month's time we went on a guided tour of the Colosseum, visited Cinecittà Film Studios, climbed to the top of St. Peter's Cathedral, explored the Vatican Museum, and visited filming sites of movies such as *Roman Holiday* (1953) and *Bicycle Thieves* (1948), and that's just the beginning.

The program was based in Rome, so naturally that's the city where I spent most of my time, but even now I feel as though I barely scratched the surface of Rome even with all the activities we had planned. Rome is a city full of so much history, delicious restaurants, and beautiful sights that I think even if I spent a full year there it wouldn't have been enough. I do know which sight I frequented most and that was the Trevi Fountain. The intricately beautiful fountain was the scene of so many memories for me. Sitting there people-watching and taking in the beautiful view made me feel like I was in a movie. I saw people hoping their wishes would



Julia and her classmates exploring Torino.



The view from the top of the National Museum of Cinema.



Filmmaker Walter Fasano and our class after screening his film *I Am Love* (2009).



Julia and her favorite attraction in Rome, the Trevi Fountain.



A night time gondola ride in beautiful Venice.



The stunning Amalfi Coast.

come true, laughs be exchanged, and even an engagement! The best way I could explain the reason I loved Trevi Fountain is that it felt like time stopped when I was there.

But I wasn't in Rome during my entire stay in Italy. Within the study abroad program we also took group trips to Torino, Naples, and Pompeii. While in Torino we were lucky enough to be able to attend the 39th Annual Torino Film Festival as well as the National Museum of Cinema. Torino actually ended up being my favorite city of the whole trip and I often daydream about being there with all my classmates scootering around and exploring all of the city's hidden treasures. And while in Naples, we were able to try pizza in its original birthplace (yum!) and walk through a beautiful Christmas market full of some of the most intricately hand-crafted pieces of art I've ever seen. We also had a day set aside while there to go and visit Pompeii which was fascinating yet also extremely emotional.

Besides our group trips, we also had free weekends where everyone was allowed to travel wherever they wanted to. I chose to visit the Amalfi Coast, Venice, and Verona with friends during this time. All of which were absolutely beautiful and breathtaking in their own ways. In each location I was able to meet kind people, enjoy mouth-watering food, and see sights I had only ever seen through photos. I also made sure to buy souvenirs from each city to bring a piece of them home with me, with my favorite being a copy of "Romeo and Juliet" from Verona that had the play written in English on one page and in Italian on the other.

Now that I've been home for a couple of weeks, I often catch myself thinking back and smiling at the memories I was able to make in Italy, as well as craving the food! Here's hoping that the wish I made at the Trevi Fountain comes true and I am able to return soon. Spero di visitarti presto, Roma!

Alumni Interview: Zoe Krey

By Rachel Hannigan

Zoe Krey graduated from DePaul as a Public Relations and Advertising major, which is often shortened to PRAD. She returned to DePaul University in 2019 to obtain her Master's degree in PRAD as well.



What was your experience like in the Honors Program?

Zoe's Honors Program experience began her freshman year in Seton Hall. After meeting the other students from her Discover Chicago class, they got to know the city together through their class.

Zoe "entered the Honors Program thinking that [she] had [her] future figured out" (as many of us do), but added her PRAD major in her Sophomore year, which has led to many career opportunities over the past several years for her.

Zoe was also a member of the Honors Student Government board, providing her with invaluable experiences in and out of the classroom.

What career experiences have you had since graduating from DePaul?

Immediately after graduating as an undergraduate, Zoe got a job as Marketing Coordinator for Lettuce Entertain You Restaurants. Afterwards, she moved to MSL, a well-known PR agency, where she got to attend the Tribeca Film Festival and sit next to Ryan Newman's pit crew at the Phoenix International Raceway through her work. Recently, Zoe moved to Walgreens where she works as a Communications Manager.

How has COVID affected your work?

While beginning work at Walgreens during the pandemic, Zoe has found her work even more meaningful than ever. This included a wide variety of work "from navigating insurance reimbursement on OTC COVID-19 tests to preparing for [their] upcoming Red Nose Day initiative to figuring out creative ways [she] can support [their] Walgreens branded products and tell [their] brand story, each day is new and exciting, despite being virtual."

What was the most memorable part about college for you?

Zoe loved DePaul so much the first time that she returned in 2019 to receive her Double Demon status! Each professor was as dedicated to their work and their students as she had remembered the first time around.

Some academic experiences that stood out to Zoe in the Honors Program were "Elena Boeck's class on late antiquity art, Robert Rotenberg's class on cognitive studies, Natalie Tomlin's class on writing and rhetoric and the late Cathy May's class on states, markets and societies to name a few."

What was your favorite part of the Honors Program?

While Zoe loved the unique classes that the Honors Program offered, something has stuck out to her after all these years.

Zoe met her partner in the Honors Program. After so many years together, they now share a condo and think about how foundational DePaul was in both of their lives.

What to Watch Over Spring Break

By Graham Reid

Spring break is always a great time to relax for a short week right before the final quarter and the long-awaited summer. With the Academy Awards drawing nearer each week (March 27th, to be exact), spring break might be a good time to catch up on all the awards buzz.

Personally, I have not done my due diligence and seen all of the Best Picture nominations for this year, but I'll see them at some point. That being said, I would *highly* recommend Ryusuke Hamaguchi's *Drive My Car* (2021) which is a perfect film to watch on a warm spring day inside. Despite being on the lengthy side, *Drive My Car* is well worth its 180 minutes. *Drive My Car* can almost certainly please both cinephiles, moviegoers, Anton Chekhov and Haruki Murakami fans alike, as the film centers around Yūsuke Kafuku, who is set to direct *Uncle Vanya* for the stage in Hiroshima.

Aside from Oscar buzz, I have some of my own perfect "spring break" film recommendations ranging from classic crowd-pleasers to foreign and arthouse classics. A simple Google search of "spring movies" does provide movies well worth the watch, such as Harmony Korine's taboo *Spring Breakers* (2012), the 90's Shakespeare adaptation of *Taming of the Shrew*, *10 Things I Hate About You* (1999), John Hughes's teen Chicago classic *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* (1986), and *The Sound of Music* (1965).

As the weather warms up towards a spring breeze, here are some films that embody a

spring vibe. If you're going for the foreign cinema route, I would *highly* recommend a beautiful film I recently watched from Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu, *Late Spring* (1949), centering around a woman's advice to marry from her father and her uncertainty about life moving forward as either a single or a married woman.

If you're tired of the fast paced big American city of Chicago, take a trip down to Robert Altman's 1975 magnum opus, *Nashville*. Filled with heavy Americana, *Nashville* centers around a five-day music festival with the backdrop of a third-party political campaign, composed of a 24-member ensemble cast. On another hot spring or summer day, I would also recommend Spike Lee's 1989 *Do the Right Thing*. Lee stars as Mookie alongside Sal (Danny Aiello), a pizza restaurant owner in Brooklyn. Set amidst racial tensions, the film's beautiful color, set design, and characters create the perfect tone for heat-fueled anger.

If the outdoors in Brooklyn isn't your vibe, then perhaps the classic courtroom drama *12 Angry Men* (1957) or the contemporary courtroom classic *A Few Good Men* (1992) would be better suited. *12 Angry Men* is about a teenager who allegedly murdered his father and takes place in a cramped and sweaty jury room in New York. We know nothing of this teenager besides a brief view of his face in the courtroom prior to jury deliberations. Henry Fonda

stars as Juror #8, the only juror who believes that there is a reasonable doubt the unnamed teenager did not commit the murder. *A Few Good Men* is still on the East Coast, but happens around Washington, D.C. where Tom Cruise stars opposite Jack Nicholson for the iconic line delivery, "You can't handle the truth!"

While many students choose to stay home over spring break, a short vacation is also a popular option. So, what I would recommend is to take a cinematic trip to Rome and enjoy some films famously shot in Italy. An American classic starring Gregory Peck and Audrey Hepburn is *Roman Holiday* (1953), where Hepburn plays the runaway princess on her own visit to Rome while being interviewed by a photojournalist, played by Peck. Another classic Roman trip that I'd recommend is Federico Fellini's 1960 film *La Dolce Vita* ("The Sweet Life"), with Italian film legend Marcello Mastroianni also as a journalist, searching for love in Rome. For a more depressing tone in Rome, I'd recommend the working-class film *Bicycle Thieves* (1948), which by name, is about a stolen bicycle. Ken Loach's *Kes* (1969) also focuses around the working class in England, a schoolboy who finds solace in taking care of a kestrel bird in the countryside.

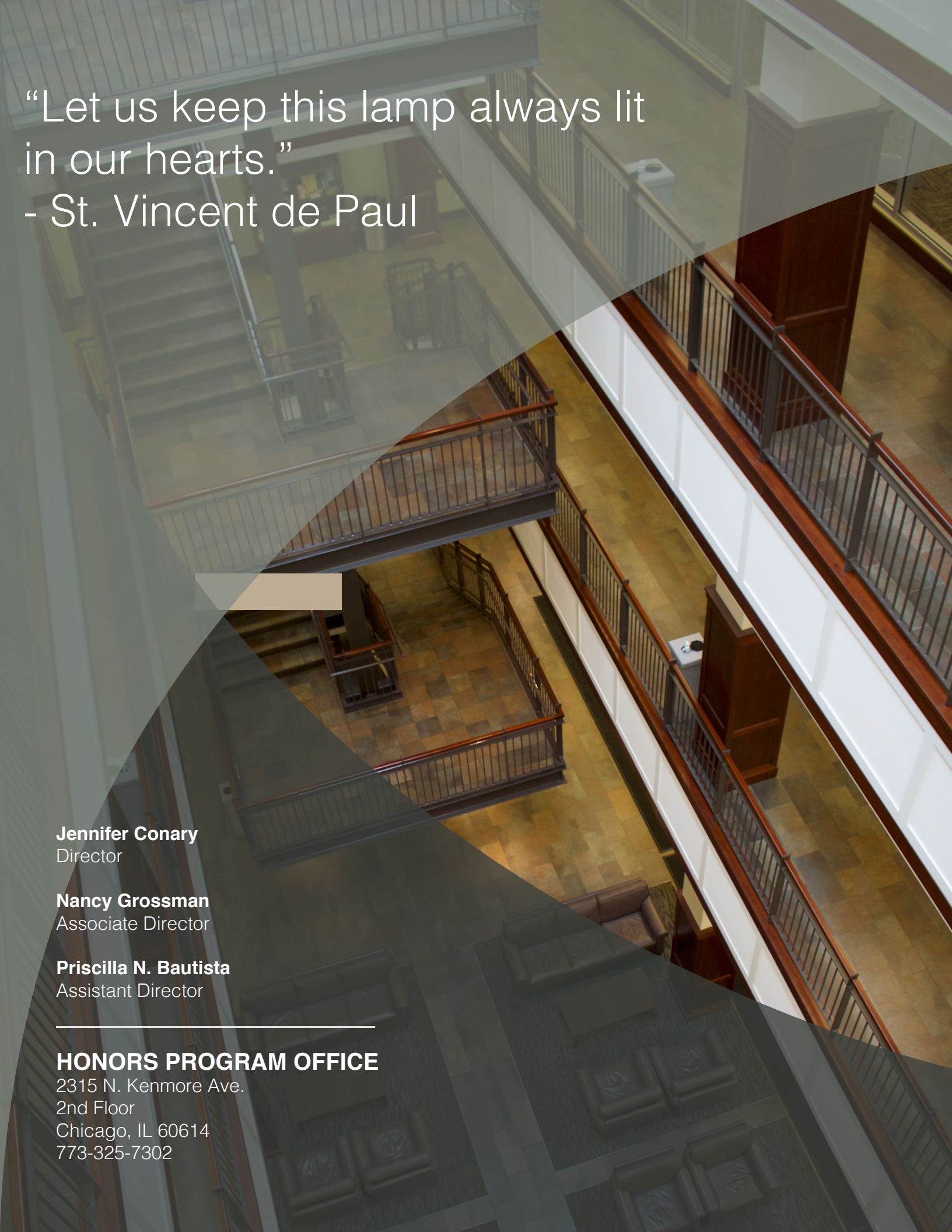
Instead of the big city of Rome, you could also travel to the countryside and take a spring trip to Vienna in *Before*

Sunrise (1995) or the Italian countryside in Fellini's *La Strada* (1954) about a circus duo. Or you could travel across America, following two band members hiding away from the mob in Billy Wilder's comedy classic *Some Like it Hot* (1959) starring Marilyn Monroe, with another classic line, "Well, nobody's perfect!" Perhaps a Hitchcockian thriller towards Mount Rushmore is more fitting with Cary Grant and Eva Marie Saint caught up in espionage in *North by Northwest* (1959). Another cosmopolitan caper classic I'd recommend is *The Italian Job* (1969), where recently released convict Michael Caine aims to steal millions worth of gold bullion from the Italian government in Turin. And if you're looking for a theme park trip instead, why not return to *Jurassic Park* (1993)?

For a more lighthearted tone, why not watch Domhnall Gleeson attempt to perfect his love life through family-inherited time travel in *About Time* (2013) or Meryl Streep as Donna Sheridan perfect her own love life in musical classic *Mamma Mia!* (2008). Another musical worth watching is *Mary Poppins* (1964), starring Julie Andrews before she took on Maria Von Trapp in *The Sound of Music*. Charlie Chaplin's silent 1931 classic *City Lights* is sure to provide a good time, as "The Tramp" falls in love with a blind girl through the shared smell of the flowers she sells.

If you're in the mood for more colorful and playful films, I'd recommend Wes Anderson's *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009) and *Rushmore* (1998), which stars a young Jason Schwartzman as a misbehaving boarding schoolboy.

Finally, if none of the above suits your taste, I can recommend some noir and neo-noir to kick back to and watch a mystery unfold. Among those would be another sweaty film, American director Jules Dassin's French noir heist *Du rififi chez les hommes* (1955) (literally "a rumble amongst men," commercially known as "Rififi"), where an ex-convict assembles a team to silently rob a jewelry store. Going back to American maverick filmmaker Robert Altman, I'd choose *The Long Goodbye* (1973) to watch on a breezy spring day with Elliott Gould as Raymond Chandler's detective Philip Marlowe. Lastly, classic neo-noir *Chinatown* (1974) would be a perfect choice for a spring day following Jack Nicholson in Los Angeles. To end, I would like toall with yet again a classic film line of dialogue, "Forget it, Jake. It's Chinatown."



“Let us keep this lamp always lit
in our hearts.”

- St. Vincent de Paul

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