IN Volvement: A key part of any student’s college education. Being involved in the classroom is, of course, an important component, but doing so outside of class is just as crucial. Being engaged in their community is a hallmark of Honors students. As you can see in the pages of Honorable Mentions, Honors Program students go above and beyond in every realm of the word.
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Co-Editors: Nicole Beuerlein and Theresa Bailey
Advisor: Jennifer Kosco
Send submissions to hsgnewsletter@gmail.com
Cover photo provided by Jennifer Kosco
VISIT THE CAREER CENTER

You may think the Career Center is only a place to go to find an internship. They do that, and so much more! They can help you decide on a major, or a career choice, help you polish your resume, conduct mock interviews to hone your skills, and much more. The Career Center offers workshops ranging from job search strategies, to interviewing skills to graduate school information sessions. To find out more about what the Career Center can do for you, visit their website: www.careercenter.depaul.edu

You can also visit one of their offices at these convenient campus locations: in the Loop, they are located in Suite 9500 of the DePaul Center (1 East Jackson); on the Lincoln Park campus, they are in Room 192 of the Schmitt Academic Center (SAC) at 2320 N. Kenmore.

HAVE A BIG PAPER DUE SOON? THE WRITING CENTER CAN HELP YOU MAKE IT THE BEST IT CAN BE!

The Writing Center provides help free of charge to all members of the DePaul University community—including students, faculty, and staff. Writing Center tutors offer assistance in developing successful writing strategies, and our goal is to help visitors become more comfortable with writing tasks and more aware of composing processes that will allow them to complete these tasks well.

We work with writers on many kinds of projects; from research papers and lab reports to Master’s theses and personal projects. We offer techniques to help writers focus and develop ideas, evaluate and summarize sources, and edit and revise their drafts. Visit the Writing Center’s website to find out locations, hours, services, and much more!

http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/

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

GENIUS SQUAD

The Genius Squad is DePaul’s premiere support service for all current students. The Genius Squad offers FREE technical service and support for desktops, laptops, phones, tablets, and other personal electronic devices. The desk is staffed by some of DePaul’s most technically adept students, many of whom are currently enrolled in our College of Computing and Digital Media, so you can trust that they’ll have the answers you need.

The Genius Squad can assist with:
- Wireless setup
- Virus and malware removal
- Hardware repair
- RAM upgrades
- Phone configuration for access to e-mail
- A variety of other technical services

Visit offices.depaul.edu/is/support for locations and hours.
HONORABLE ANNOUNCEMENTS

DEMON DISCOUNTS

When you say “I’m a college student,” the secret message you’re trying to share with the world is “I’m poor.” Don’t worry, fellow college students. It’s not actually a secret message, everybody knows. The good news is that businesses around DePaul understand this, and they want to help us!

Here are discounts you can get with your DePaul ID.

- AMC Theaters: discounted tickets available through the DePaul Office of Student Involvement.
- Hot Tix: offers half off tickets for students.
- The Second City: 15% off tickets on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday.
- The Bourgeois Pig: 10% discount off of in-house, take-out, or delivery
- Jam ’n Honey: provides 10% off all orders Monday thru Thursday and 20% off all orders every day after 4 pm to DePaul faculty, staff and students.
- Salvation Army: 15% off all of your purchases.

If you want to see all of the different discounts offered, go to discounts.depaul.edu.

HONORS BY THE NUMBERS

There are 895 students in the Honors Program. This is what we all study.
THE 2014 HEART WALK
BY MK VERDUN

“Ah. Ah. Ah. Ah. Stayin’ alive. Stayin’ alive.” Did you know that the Bee Gee’s classic Stayin’ Alive has a beat that’s almost exactly 100 beats per minute – the same rate the American Heart Association recommends for chest compressions for CPR? This, along with other information, was made available during the Chicago Heart Walk. The annual Metro Chicago Heart Walk is the American Heart Association’s mission in action. The walk promotes physical activity and heart-healthy living in a fun, family environment. It is a time of celebration for those who have made lifestyle changes and encourages many more to take the pledge to live healthier lifestyles while raising money to fund research and education, advocate for health, and save lives!

On September 26, members of the Honors Program joined with DePaul University and many groups around Chicago as participants in the Chicago Heart Walk. Before the walk started, everyone gathered in one of Soldier Field’s parking lots that served as the expo area for the walk. While we waited to get a group photo taken, we were able to walk around and see the many different sponsors of the walk. Each booth provided information about what they do as well as information on how to live a healthy lifestyle. Also, because Meijer was a sponsor, we were provided with water bottles to stay hydrated during the walk.

Once the walk started, participants had the option of walking a one mile or three mile route, each along Lake Michigan. We took the three mile route, walking north towards the city and then back down to the parking lot. The walk provided us views of not only the lake, but a near perfect view of the skyline.

As we finished the walk, we were greeted with Subway sandwiches as a post walk snack. Many of the booths were still open, and a radio station (97.1 FM, The Drive) provided post-walk tunes. It was clear that even though the walk was over, people weren’t done celebrating what amazing things the American Heart Association is doing.

ARCHITECTURE TOUR
BY ZACH STEVENS

Have you ever strolled through the Loop and walked next to the buildings without knowing the rich history and significance behind them? If you said yes, take the Historic Skyscraper Tour through the Chicago Architecture Foundation. On Friday, October 3rd, Jennifer Kosco, along with CAF tour guide Karen, took a group of nine Honors students on this walk, and learned that there is so much more to these buildings than meets the eye.

I was fascinated with the Marquette Building at 56 West Adams. Outside it just looks like a smaller, brown skyscraper. We learned that the outside is actually a terracotta finish and is blackened due to the soot from the railroads, so it appears brown. However, the second you step inside you are mesmerized by the beauty. Above each elevator, there are mosaics depicting all the Indian tribes Marquette encountered on his journey, where he essentially discovered Chicago.

If you have ever taken a trip on the Brown Line and gotten off to go to DePaul’s Loop campus, you should know about the Harold Washington Library. Built in 1981 with the intentions of mimicking earlier buildings like the Rookery, it is a perfect representation of Chicago’s history. On the exterior, you will notice the three lamps representing the branches of the Chicago River, the grain and wheat traveling up to the top to meet the Windy City man at the top. (cont’d. page 6)
(cont’d. from page 5) The Chicago Architecture Foundation has many types of other tours that you can take through Chicago, including a boat tour, so check that out! And the next time you hop on the Brown Line, try to take a peek at the Marquette Building and when you walk past Harold Washington Library admire the history of Chicago in one building.

For more information, including details about student discounted memberships, go to the CAF website: http://www.architecture.org

RIGHT: Honors students in The Rookery building on the CAF Walk

IN THE HEIGHTS REVIEW
BY COOPER PACKARD

“Lights up on Washington Heights!” Tears fell, bodies swayed, and verses rolled off the tongue as the Theatre School performed the Tony award-winning musical, “In the Heights,” at the Fullerton Stage Theatre this October. Originally conceived by actor, rapper, and lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda, the show chronicles the vivacious citizens of the Washington Heights neighborhood in New York as they celebrate their Latin American cultures and adapt to change. I had the chance to catch a preview performance the Wednesday before opening night, and much as its Broadway run did in 2008, “In the Heights” enthralled its audience.

We follow narrator Usnavi (Wesley Toledo), a bodega owner named after a U.S. Navy ship; he falls for a hairdresser named Vanessa (Lucy Blehar) in what turns out to be a cat-and-mouse game of who loves whom. Toledo mesmerized as the soulful Usnavi, rapping effortlessly like a young Lin-Manuel Miranda. Together, the two shared some awkward embraces but overall an undeniable chemistry, especially in the heartfelt song “Champagne.” Here, Usnavi fumbles with the bottle’s “twisty thing” in lieu of discussing his feelings – isn’t that as down-to-earth as it gets? Meanwhile, Usnavi’s mother-figure Abuela Claudia (Jeri Marshall) nurtures Usnavi’s growth as a character, but Claudia herself illustrated strong character development through a few plot twists and turns.

However, the true character development appeared in Nina (Krystal Ortiz), the first in her family to attend college – specifically, Stanford University. No pressure there! Yet “Breathe,” her pounding ballad expressing her self-expressed mediocrity, brought the house down; Ortiz stood out as a truly impressive actress who studied her character to hell and back.

It really was this individual attention to character that made the each actor such a pleasure to watch. And why wouldn’t the acting stand out? The Theatre School at DePaul is an acclaimed institution that produces quality work both on stage and behind the scenes. So, yes, the cast did well considering most were not truly Hispanic like the original cast, although every few lines I could hear a dropped accent. Similarly, the singing was generally strong considering there’s no DePaul musical theatre program. Certain voices (e.g Nina) were clearly more experienced than others, and certain characters (e.g Usnavi) seemed more fleshed out.

As for the supporting cast, I was particularly impressed by Nina’s mother and father (Paoloa Sanchez and Jeremy Pfaff, respectively). It was during their scenes that I completely forgot the ages of the actors – it never crossed my mind that Nina’s parents weren’t actually fortysomethings arguing with their daughter.

Interestingly, one criticism I have has to do with the simplicity of the choreography. I’d heard nothing but wonderful things of the Broadway run’s choreography, but the movement in this production didn’t strike me as powerful like it could’ve been. The soul of Washington Heights and its people is lively and filled to the brim with culture! Whether this couldn’t be attained because of the size of the stage or for lack of a musical theatre department, the choreography proved surprisingly tame.

Nevertheless, “In the Heights” in its entirety was a treat for me and all Blue Demons alike, proving the Theatre School can pull out its musical theatre chops when needed. ¿En Washington Heights? ¡No me diga!”
On Tuesday, September 23rd, Honors Program students and faculty gathered at Fiesta Mexicana on Lincoln Avenue for delicious Mexican cuisine at our quarterly Student-Faculty Dinner.
I've only been in London for a little more than a month, and I can already say studying abroad was the best decision I've made in my twenty years of living. London is full of so many new experiences. Everywhere you look there is a new type of food to try, a new kind of person to meet, and so many famous landmarks that have been there for centuries. I was never too picky on where I wanted to study abroad, but I am so glad that I ultimately chose to come to London. As an economics major, it is fascinating to be in one of the financial capitals of the world. Because there are so many business students at the University of Westminster, it is a really stimulating environment. Many of my business professors have real world experience in London, as well as in many countries throughout Europe. It has been quite educational to get an international business perspective instead of just a domestic point of view.

Now you might be thinking, "Hey, it's England. They speak English. It should be easy getting around and doing things," and on the one hand you would be correct. However, it is not always the case and there is always a bit of a learning curve that comes with being in a new country. The most obvious difference is that they drive on the other side of the road in Great Britain. I thank God that I do not have to drive in London. However, being a pedestrian isn't always the easiest job either. Luckily, many of the streets either say "look left" or "look right" on the pavement so that makes it a little safer.

Another difference between London and Chicago is the transportation system. The Tube (London's underground transportation system) is amazing! This system should have the management of the CTA crying because it is so much better. The Tube is actually clean and the London citizens actually respect the Tube and keep it pristine! What a concept! Also, the Tube comes much more frequently than the CTA, which means it is less crowded. The sad part about taking the Tube is that we do not have a Ventra card with unlimited rides. We have an Oyster card, but we have to pay for each individual ride. Trust me, it really adds up. Luckily, London is a very easy city to walk around and many of the famous landmarks are close together (especially when you have the luxury of central London living like you do when you attend the University of Westminster). My definition of a short walk has greatly changed since I've been here. Another fun difference is some of the terminology used by Londoners. For instance, when I went to the store to find cream cheese to put on my bagel, I could not find it. When I asked an employee, she laughed, and told me what I was really looking for was "soft cheese." Oops. Lesson learned. Cream cheese is actually soft cheese.

London is a perfect study abroad location because it allows you to travel to other parts of Europe for a bargain. While in London I am visiting Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Czech Republic, Belgium and the Netherlands. All study abroad students love to travel. It is very easy to get a group together and travel in large numbers for extra safety. In fact, I am traveling with two other DePaul Honors Program students that I've met. Honors students are everywhere, aren't they?

Although I've only been here for such a short time, I can already tell that I am going to have the busiest and most exciting three months of my life. I can't wait to see what the rest of my time in London and the rest of Europe have in store for me, but I know I won't be disappointed.
AIRPLANE FOOD, AM I RIGHT?
JON FERRARI

Munching on a concoction of overcooked pasta, crunchy vegetables and sour apple juice sounds unpleasant, yet is a vivid memory in the minds of many. But this time, my in-flight meal tasted so, so good. It was the taste of freedom, as my flight cruised at 30 thousand feet above the Atlantic. I sipped champagne with my 20 year-old classmate and future roommate. We were embarking on a year-long journey that would fill our minds with knowledge, our lives with stories, and our stomachs with French cheese and wine.

Four weeks in, I had already surmounted French bureaucracy; an alcoholic neighbor, who attempted to seduce me; losing and retrieving a friend who had no cellphone, my address, or knowledge of Lyon; and the lines in the grocery store which took in excess of 40 minutes. However, French life had taught me to be slow. If you are trying to walk somewhere, such as the nearest door, do not expect to reach it without colliding with at least 14 elderly women (or Age d’or as they say). There is no fast food, unless you steal a baguette and run. Work is a cliche, and anything more than 35 hours a week demands protest. Did I say protest? If you are trying to get to university by foot, you will confront at least 14 protests. Feel free to join in, even add your own chant as no one will understand you, and may even start repeating your words.

Beyond the seemingly bizarre cultural differences, in France you will learn to have class, and a bit of self-dignity. Aesthetics are key, and the way you deliver your speech will have as much impact as the words you say. I enjoyed this, as it is accountability at its very best. If you are not wearing “fashionable” pants, maybe they won’t let you into the restaurant. Belligerently screaming like an obnoxious American? Maybe you will not get served that gelato you so desperately crave. Brilliant. This is why we can’t have nice things…such as the 15th century B.C. Gallo-Roman theaters where magnificent jazz performances are held, or massive horse statues designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi.

Yes, I was a true American who stuck out like a bottle of Yellow Tail at a French cocktail party. Maybe asking every Frenchman and woman how they liked Derrick Rose if they wore a Bulls hat wasn’t polite, but it took a few more weeks of cultural inbreeding before I finally reached a maturity level acceptable of the locals. However you smoke it (and everyone smokes there), studying in France was an amazing, immersive cultural experience that only improved as time flew by.

Until Sweden,
Jon (Jean-Girard) Ferrari

SOME QUICK ADVICE FOR STUDY-ABROADERS:
• DO a longer program; 2 weeks doesn’t count.
• DON’T open Surströmming (rotten pickled fish) in a confined space.
• DO learn a foreign language, even if it’s useless in the country you’ll be living in.
• DON’T forget to give your friends your address when they go out drinking.
• DO hitch hike with truckers and Couchsurf instead of hostels.
• DON’T think that gypsies will welcome you into their camps at night.
• DO Get lost. You’ll learn more on the road than any book, professor or job will ever teach you.

For more information about the year-long France and Sweden: Atlantis II Dual Degree Program, visit the Study Abroad Office website: http://studioabroad.is.depaul.edu/
If there is one thing I have learned from my years at DePaul, it’s that us students don’t take advantage of all the opportunities we are given. Everyone always forgets about the amazing resources we have here, such as discounts at theaters, restaurants, retail stores and more; free lectures; and financial mentoring. One of the most valuable, and often forgotten, resources at DePaul is the Career Center.

When we get down to it, we all know the reason we are in college is to prepare for “adult life” and to secure a full-time position after graduation. The Career Center is exactly the place to assist with these goals; we just have to remember that it is there! Personally, my favorite aspect of the Career Center is the DePaul Experience website. Over this past summer, I used the site to search for potential fall internships. It was overwhelming at first, because the site includes job listings from outside sources. But I relaxed once I narrowed the listings down to ones posted directly from the DePaul Career Center. I knew that I could trust the posts under DePaul’s network. Eventually, I found a listing for a position at Margie Korshak, Inc. It completely fit everything I was looking for, and it only took me at most two minutes to find. We all know how stressful and time consuming a job search can be, so I loved the fact that this site made the process so much simpler.

I ended up securing a position as a Public Relations and Social Media intern and have loved every minute of it! I have drafted and edited social media content for several clients and am in the process of creating new menus for a restaurant in Evanston. I get to attend amazing industry and client events, including the recent Lynn Sage Cancer Research Foundation Annual Fall Benefit, featuring Sally Field. I even got promoted to Intern Coordinator after less than two months. I truly have been given the same responsibilities and experiences as an entry level employee, and I feel immensely more prepared to enter the workforce after graduation. As cheesy as it may sound, I owe it all to the Career Center.

So, all that being said, I dare you to actually capitalize on the resources available to us as students of DePaul. Take charge of your future!

To find out about the DePaul Experience and other benefits of the Career Center, go to their website:
http://www.careercenter.depaul.edu
When I first came here, I felt like I was starting all over again. And I don’t mean that in a good way. There was a certain feeling of insignificance I experienced in my first weeks here that no one had warned me about. Of course, I knew that there would be more homework time than class time, that I would have to go out of my way to make friends, and that whatever I did and whoever I was in high school would wash away with my transcript. I suppose I never took that last bit seriously enough. I was an officer for Drama, Debate, and Forensics at my high school—not that that’s even remotely important now—and in my last few years of school I’d become someone that the underclassmen could look up to and come to for advice. And then I came to college.

In one of the fastest, strangest changes in status I’ve ever experienced, I turned into the underclassman asking for help and advice. Yet, I was still expected to work as hard as I could and look three to four years ahead of myself toward when I might achieve that same feeling of importance.

So, I continued. And as I continued, I was introduced to the greatest experiences of my life. My Discover Chicago class, Writing at the Grassroots of Chicago, was made up of some of the most fantastic people I’ll ever meet. During Immersion Week, we visited Young Chicago Authors, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and had the opportunity to meet Marc Kelley Smith, the founder of the slam poetry movement. On top of offering my class and me new, enriching experiences and great friendships, by the end of the week I felt like I could (almost) ride the CTA without looking like a tourist.

When our normal schedules started, however, everything seemed a little less dreamy and a lot more difficult. I finally understood what everyone meant when they said the class-work-to-homework ratio is drastically different in college than it is in high school. In the first few weeks of class, the hours I spent in class felt like the mere tip of an iceberg, and the hours spent doing homework felt like, well, the ocean. Although it’s all a change of pace, it’s definitely been manageable, and—let’s be honest—no matter how much homework I get here, it’ll still be better than high school.

Outside of my academics, I’ve gotten involved in The DePaulia (look for me in upcoming issues!) and I’ve been taking advantage of the endless theater opportunities in the area, seeing In the Heights at our Theatre School, along with plenty of improv shows at the iO theater and Second City.

So although I may not be the person underclassmen go to for advice just yet, I’ve been constantly reassured here that it’s the best place for me to learn and grow. If we all stayed on top forever, we’d never improve ourselves. Looking at the welcoming, impressive upperclassmen here to guide me, I can’t wait to see the kind of person DePaul turns me into.
They asked me what I wanted to be. I said, Brave. Resilient. Courageous. Invincible.
I want to feel the fear in my nerves — the imprisonment of paralysis that pin needles have employed on me.
I want to rise above — jump, unaware if a net lies at the bottom of the chasm.
I want to race down the track — feel my legs crumble to dust as I fall a millisecond short.
I want to wake up the next day before the roosters crow — before the moon kisses the mountain peak goodnight.
I want to work until my muscles are torn and my heart is awakened again.
I want to stand in a room full of shades of grey — hear them lecture, which line I should file into — which edge of my soul I should file down to fit a mold.
I want to paint the room with the colors I felt on that June afternoon,
when I knew in my bones what beaten path I would take.
I want to open my soul — lay bare, raw and ready for their eyes to judge.
I want to fall, fail, scratch, scream, tear, break, jump, run and chase because I know;
Bravery lies in the moments when your body quits but your mind does not.
Resilience lies in the moments when defeat encroaches upon your soul as your fingertips graze success.
Courage lies in the moments when you display the world your weathered eyes see.
Invincibility lies in the moments when you recognize that your bravery, resilience and courage in the face of adversity make you incapable of being stopped by any force.
That’s What I Told Them.
A DEEPER LOOK

A WRITER’S WISH, GRANTED
BY AVERY CUNNINGHAM

For writers, the concept of being paid to do what you love is about as much of a fiction as the stories we craft. A legend told to 20-somethings to help them fall asleep at night. That is why the opportunities offered to me by the DePaul Undergraduate Summer Research Grant are so spectacular, to the point of being downright miraculous.

Three years ago, I was sitting in a Classical Mythology course offered by DePaul, enraptured in the misadventures of one of the world’s most infamous pantheons, and I was struck by how un-divinely human these effortlessly powerful gods are. They are seized by the most base of emotions — jealousy, lust, grudges that extend over cosmos — and their responses to these emotions are just as juvenile. I began to wonder how these gods would function without influences over space and nature, life and death, in the modern mortal world: without all of their supernatural tendencies that suspend them above the humans they so poorly govern. This was the origin of a novel, now more of a multi-volume epic, titled Titans and Men.

It is a modern interpretation of the Titanomachy, which is the mythological war between the Titans and the Olympians for divine dominion. The plot revolves around a young man named Jordan Salvador (Prometheus) – a bleeding-heart, rebellious former student who is strong in his convictions and merciless in his pursuit of the unjust and corrupt – and Jonathan Titan (Zeus) – a middle-aged playboy, quick to laugh and quick to love, though he hides a malicious and vengeful heart. Jordan hesitantly takes on an internship under Jonathan at the monumental Titan Industries, producers of the strongest metal in the world, adamantine. Soon thrown into the innermost workings of the company when disaster strikes, Jordan forms attachments to the Titans in all of their ostentatious wonder and power. As a result, he becomes unknowingly involved in Jonathan’s destructive coup to overthrow his father, Jacob Titan, Sr. (Kronos), as the head of the company and the family. However, when he uncovers the company’s most damaging secret, Jordan must choose between his loyalties to them and doing the right thing.

I was awarded the grant in the summer of 2013, the majority of the amount going towards the research and maintenance needed to work on the piece full time, however, the story behaved as most stories do and extended beyond me. It belongs to the characters now, who are constantly plowing their own path while I simply transcribe it and fill in the more unyielding details. Yet, even with the moments of writer’s block — which are just as uncompromisingly persistent as every writer who has ever been has said they are — the novel is becoming an eye-opening look at how the gods function as the most powerful entities in that world, why they are characterized as such, and how those characteristics are reflected in the writings of the Greek and Roman story tellers that inspire us all.

Even though I am now proposing the piece as my Honors Senior thesis, I would have never had the confidence or the dedication to begin, not to mention complete, this project without the DePaul Summer Research Grant and the chance it gave me. I would encourage all creative types to pursue programs like the Summer Research Grant, which are open to artists as well as academics, and encourage us to learn and grow from all types of expression.

For more information about the Summer Research Grant, go to:
http://las.depaul.edu/research/undergraduate/Pages/grant-programs.aspx
When I came to DePaul, I was very unsure about what clubs I wanted to join. I had too many interests, and too little time to join every group I wanted. Because of my previous volunteer work throughout high school, I decided I would join DePaul Community Service Association (DCSA). Their mission is to provide meaningful volunteer opportunities to DePaul students who serve our university neighborhood partners, and to promote spiritual growth and social justice rooted in Vincentian values.

On a blustery Friday in September when I had no class, I joined 3 other volunteers in a big white van on a short trip to a public school on the south side. As soon as we walked into the first and second grade classrooms, I was amazed to see every student in the room break into excited grins and hands waving in the air waiting to be noticed. From that moment on, I knew that DCSA was an organization in which I could live out the Vincentian mission of “what must be done.”

This particular DCSA service group placed our volunteers with children who needed extra work on their math skills. Each volunteer would work with 3-4 students with worksheets and flashcards. As you might imagine, getting second graders to sit down and focus on math for an hour on a Friday afternoon was not easy. Instead of working on their problem sheets, they would talk to each other, ask me personal questions, throw things, and when they were confused about a math problem, they suddenly had to use the restroom or get another drink of water. I noticed each student’s behaviors quickly and I knew I had to find a way to make math seem less intimidating so finishing their work wouldn’t be so difficult. I gave them as many helpful hints as possible, which often included counting fingers and writing number lines. I found a balance between being a teacher figure as well as being a mentor and friend which I did by listening to their stories, and how they were doing that week.

Every Friday possible for the rest of my freshman year, I enjoyed going down to the south side of town to see those kids. Each week in the van on Lake Shore Drive I would look out the window at beautiful Lake Michigan. I would think about all the fascinating personalities in the classroom and felt motivated to help them work on their math knowledge through work sheets and flashcards. I knew that many of them were struggling with school and quite a few of them mentioned problems at home, too. On the van ride home, all of us volunteers would talk about the kids we tutored and the difficulties and the joys we had with them. We discussed what we thought about Chicago Public Schools, the neighborhood, and about Chicago as a whole.

By volunteering with DCSA, I’ve been able to drive through Chicago neighborhoods that I’ve never seen before. Streets far away from DePaul. I now feel very familiar with places that used to be foreign and unknown to me, and connected to as if I’ve been a resident of Chicago for years. Volunteering and going to other parts of Chicago are absolutely normal to me now. I don’t do it because it’s required. I do it because I find joy in it and I can’t help but look forward to escaping college pressure and homework for a little while, and escaping to another side of town where smiling faces greet me, little voices call my name, and arms warmly embrace me each week. By talking, mentoring, and tutoring students in Chicago, I’m learning so much about this city and its people, and, at the same time, I am discovering who I am.

DCSA goes to nineteen sites around Chicago. Some of the ways you can volunteer through DCSA are by: tutoring kids in all subjects, teaching English as a second language to adults, spending time with the elderly, forming relationships with adults with disabilities, mentoring formerly incarcerated youth, and walking dogs at a shelter. The schedule varies depending on each group, so I encourage everyone to check out DCSA on OrgSync. Each of the service groups has its own OrgSync page, so once you find one that works with your schedule, send them a message on OrgSync, and let them know that you will be able to join them for service that week! If you are interested in volunteering here at DePaul, DCSA is the way to go! You never know the ways in which your heart can be touched.

For more information about DCSA and service at DePaul, visit: http://studentaffairs.depaul.edu/vcso/dcsa.html
Looking back but looking forward
by Theresa Bailey

Listening to the tales of Holocaust survivors has become an essential part of the American High School Curriculum. If you didn't read "Diary of Anne Frank," I bet you read another novel, whether it be Night, by Elie Weisel, or Man's Search for Meaning, by Viktor Frankl. All of these stories provide insight into being a victim of the Holocaust: hiding, fleeing, or simply surviving during one of the most tragic genocides in our world's history. Motherland, by Fern Schumer Chapman, calls to light a different type of Holocaust survivor. Chapman's mother, Edith, was one of the children who was saved through exile to America.

When Chapman came to speak at DePaul, and in her small group discussion with Honors students, she made it clear that her mother's saving had as many negative aspects as good. While she lived, she lost her family, her sense of self, and her homeland. She remained stuck in the memories of the trauma she endured as a child, even when she went on to marry and have her own children. In the 1990's, now a grandmother, Edith decided to finally return to Germany for closure, and Chapman accompanied her. Motherland follows the mother and daughter on their journey, looking at the prejudice still held by the community Edith left, the passage of time, and the powerful moments where old friends finally find themselves reunited. Most importantly, Motherland explores the relationship between a mother and daughter.

Chapman's small group with around twenty students from the Honors Program allowed students to ask their questions about the novel, Chapman's process, and the emotional nature of her relationship with her mother. She also shared details about how the release of the book has changed and transformed Edith. Now in her early nineties, Edith recently decided to become a docent at a local Holocaust Museum, sharing her story with others. In a way, Chapman articulated, the story she presents in Motherland and her book, Is it Night or Day?, which is a fictionalized account of her mother's own tale, have become the center of Edith's identity. She has adopted the story of her youth and made it her own narrative.

If real life had tidy endings and morals, the focus of this story might be the power of a mother-daughter relationship, or maybe another testament to the horrors of the Holocaust. However, to make Chapman's story or her mother's life into a moral seems to discount the complexity of their lives and of their pain. Instead, perhaps, a reader should simply look at Chapman's books as an endeavor to share openly, and to move forward as much as possible, despite the darkness of the past.

To find out more about Fern Schumer-Chapman, visit: http://www.fernschumerchapman.com/
Saul Bellow is often regarded as the man who broke all the rules of literature. Perhaps it is that brilliant sense of rebellion and vivacity found in his writing that made him worthy of earning the coveted Nobel Prize for Literature for his novel Humboldt’s Gift. Bellow’s powerful and controversial writing is believed to have been directly influenced by his own Chicago upbringing. When attempting to understand his literature, one must question how Saul Bellow’s literary philosophies were influenced by the diversity he encountered.

Saul Bellow was a brilliant mind that soon found his place amongst the hallowed halls of the University of Chicago. It was his time at the U of C that changed the way Bellow viewed himself as a writer. In an interview with Molly McQuade, Bellow spoke of his development as a young adult writer in his time at U of C. Bellow, only seventeen years old, immersed himself in Hyde Park and, with his group of comrades, he began a journey of self-discovery that would be challenged by his educators. He commented that his professors would speak of great things while he and his peers listened and desired to do great things instead. It is evident that U of C was influential in the sense that it served as a reminder of the greatness that Bellow wanted to achieve and that he would not stand on the sidelines and watch his life pass him by. He was destined for something greater—he desired to captivate audiences with everyday life occurrences. The university would serve as a stepping-stone for the things that Bellow was destined to do.

He vividly described Chicago as being vastly different than anything he had experienced; “It was ruder, cruder, noisier, dirtier, grosser and wildly energetic”—the perfect setting for a man seeking to find himself as a writer. Bellow described his philosophy as a young writer as little more than a cloudy yearning in which existed a developing perspective.

Bellow believed that as a writer he would gain perspective by seeing people as characters and reading drama into ordinary happenings—Humboldt’s Gift did just that. The novel follows Charlie Citrine, a character that is often believed to hold some autobiographical reflection of Bellow himself. Citrine’s life is chronicled throughout the text. His youth in Chicago is discussed, followed by his effort to chase the inspiration he found in a book of poems written by the New York poet Von Humboldt Fleischer. Undoubtedly moved, Charlie takes a loan from his sweetheart at the time and ventures off to Greenwich Village where he finds Humboldt and they develop a mentorship and friendship.

The beauty that lies in the simplest lines of this text is truly what sets Bellow apart from all the rest. Yes, his text is a retrospective commentary on the harsh realities artists face in the societal constructs of American culture, but Bellow also brings to light his vivid opinions about life and exploration of self. As mentioned earlier, Bellow strived to encapsulate the beauty that existed in ordinary occurrences. What Bellow does in Humboldt’s Gift is bring to light the beauty that exists in rediscovering oneself throughout numerous stages in one’s life. He uses Charlie as a powerful symbol of what it is to be an ordinary artist in search of meaning in the world. Charlie’s ambitions and artistic instinct drive him to find meaning. His fearless and reckless decision to venture to New York in an effort to find Humboldt is a rash decision that changes his life for the better.

The tender curiosity and the desire to showcase the ordinary occurrences in life are philosophies that Bellow discovered in his upbringing in Chicago. It is these very philosophies that are eloquently translated into the brilliant lines of Humboldt’s Gift. Bellow is truly a timeless writer whose literature is the product of a cultured man who found himself among the hustling streets of the endlessly diverse Chicagoland.
Jeanne Nolan: Chicago’s Urban Agriculturalist

By Andrew Gould

On September 22nd, the Honors 110 Urban Agriculture class was delighted to welcome Jeanne Nolan, author of From the Ground Up. Jeanne’s warm and nurturing attitude was obvious from the moment she walked through the door; she smiled at everyone and passed around a bowl of delicious tomatoes. The way to a student’s heart is through their stomach of course, but Jeanne also displayed a sense of caring and a thorough understanding of issues at the core of urban agriculture. What is most impressive is that Jeanne has retained her compassion despite the hardships she has endured.

A native of Chicago’s northern suburbs, Jeanne left her home in 1987 at the age of eighteen, to join a small communal-living program in southern California. The program, called Zendik Farms, was made up of a group of misanthropes from all walks of life, determined to escape the pressures of the modern world and reconnect with the earth through careful organic gardening and simple communal living. On the surface, Zendik appeared to be an honest attempt to find a healthier, more natural lifestyle, yet Jeanne gradually realized that the leaders of the commune were using subtle methods of manipulation to control members for their own benefit. After almost twenty years, Jeanne had given birth to her daughter and built her life on the commune, but sensed the danger to her health and happiness. She left the farm with her daughter in 2004, and returned to Winnetka, Illinois.

With Zendik behind her, Jeanne looked ahead and saw the daunting task of returning to modern society. Much had changed in the last twenty years and Jeanne was ill equipped to return to this strange new world. Her only discernible skill set was an impressive knowledge of growing organic vegetables. Fortunately for Jeanne, she soon realized that there was a demand for fresh produce. “I tried to take away the positive aspects of my life on the farm,” Jeanne explained to the class. She refused to let the painful experiences of life at Zendik weigh her down as she looked towards her future.

Determined to make a comfortable life for her family, Jeanne started her own company, the Organic Gardener. She provided customers with the knowledge and skill to grow organic fruit and vegetables in their own backyards, encouraging them to think about their impact on the environment in the process. Jeanne is now at the forefront of the urban agricultural scene in Chicago: she is consultant to a multitude of gardening projects, is a partner in the Green City Farmers’ Market, and is responsible for the design, installation and maintenance of the Edible Gardens project by the Lincoln Park Zoo. The Organic Gardener also provides food for not-for-profit organizations, schools, and restaurants all over the Chicago area.

“Life on the farm definitely gave me the tough skin I needed to put myself out there and prepare for someone to tell me no,” said Jeanne, describing the lessons she learned during her time at Zendik. “It’s that kind of ‘get up again’ attitude that really helps you become an entrepreneur. I never would have been able to start a business without it.” Jeanne has come out on top; From the Ground Up is the story of a caring, compassionate woman with the tenacity and fortitude to reassess circumstances and adapt to life’s adversities; the perfect resume for a successful urban agriculturist!
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.

“I BREAK MACHINES EASILY.”

“It was all very slimy and opportunistic.”

“She goes off the deep end over dirt and dust!”

“If you play your cards right, you don’t have to ever grow up.”

“Google just knows.”

“You cannot not communicate.”

“I can’t remember what I had for dinner last night...how am I supposed to write this paper?”
“One can never have too great a supply of patience or gentleness.”

-ST. VINCENT DEPAUL