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Hello fellow Honors students!

My name is Maciej Piwowarczyk and, as of February 2, I am the President of Honors Student Government, so I wanted to say hello. I have been active in HSG since last year when I served on the board first as the Social Chair, and then as Vice President, and now as President. With this change came a few others, such as Nick Gricus moving into the SGA Liaison position and Kylie Hamakawa joining Cris Cazares as the Social Committee Co-Chair.

The main goal that I have set for myself is to streamline and expand the processes that HSG currently has in place. One way that we as an executive board plan to make things clearer and easier for future e-boards is by reevaluating our constitution this year. We are eliminating redundant phrases, replacing unclear wording, and modifying questionable language. We have been making progress recently and we will have a refined constitution by the end of Winter Quarter.

Thus far this year, we have had impressive numbers of students who regularly attend HSG’s biweekly meetings. I’d like to extend a big thank you to all of you who have spent their Friday afternoons with us at our meetings and guest speaker events.

We recently hosted our annual Honors Alumni Panel, which featured four impressive alums, and you can read more about it in this issue of Honorable Mentions (see Page 7). The Honors Ball is coming up on April 6, and I will be working with the Social Committee to make this exciting event, well, exciting! We hope to see you there!

I would also like to focus on collaborating with other organizations on campus. Since we are all interested in learning more about the Vincentian Mission, I’d like to encourage my fellow students to learn more about Vincent de Paul the person. This year, I was accepted to go on the Vincentian Heritage Tour, which means I get to learn all about our pal Vinny and travel to France to see where he lived and worked. Part of this honor (pun intended!) includes spreading the crucial lessons that de Paul taught four centuries ago. Through Meet Me at the Mission events (in collaboration with the Office of Mission & Values), which you are all invited to attend, we can all learn more about the name above the door. Watch your Honors Program email for details about these events. It is going to be great and I hope that this work will set up a precedent for further interactions between HSG and the broader DePaul community.

I look forward to serving as HSG President and seeing you at our next meeting!

Maciej Piwowarczyk, a familiar face in Honors Student Government, will serve as HSG President through the rest of the Academic Year. Congratulations, Maciej!
To the Honors Program Community,

There comes a point in every college student’s journey where inherent push and pull factors require personal restructuring. Since I started as a freshman at DePaul, I have been lucky enough to place my utmost attention on Honors Student Government without having to compromise the time and energy necessary for an Executive Board position. However, with the emergence of unanticipated professional, academic, and private demands upon entering the new year, I can no longer say the same. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I have decided to step down as HSG President.

As of February 2, I assumed the role of SGA Liaison, effectively leaving the position of President to Honors Student Government’s sitting Vice President, Maciej Piwowarczyk. I have had the honor of working alongside Maciej since taking office in May of 2017, and I can honestly say that there is no one I trust more to carry out HSG’s initiatives moving forward. Just this year alone, Maciej, the rest of the Executive Board, and I have diligently collaborated to administer charity work, guest speakers, and countless other events aimed at garnering enthusiasm amongst Honors students. With our driven Honors student body and copious amounts of exciting plans on the horizon, I am beyond ecstatic for what is possible in for Honors Student Government in the future.

Although the makeup of the HSG Executive Board changes from time to time, the aim of our group remains the same. Honors Student Government exists so that the ideas and interests of Honors students can be heard, explored, and fulfilled. Additionally, HSG sets out to foster opportunities for students to maximize engagement in leadership, service, and socialization. There is not a doubt in my mind that the trajectory of our group will be maintained and enhanced long after I step down as President.

I cannot thank members of the Honors Program enough for placing your trust in me to lead Honors Student Government. Serving as your President has been nothing short of a privilege, and I look forward to collaborating with each of you in various capacities for years to come.

Cordially,
Nick Gricus
HONORABLE EVENTS

Good Fortunes at the Student-Faculty Dinner

On Wednesday, February 21st, Honors students and faculty gathered for a delicious dinner at Mo’s Asian Bistro. As you can see, a good time was had by all in attendance!

Genesis Agosto, Megan Salloum & Tuyet Anh Le about to tuck into the first course

Aliza Bromberg & Connor Mudd comparing fortunes

Professor Lisa Poirier enjoys dinner with students

Professor Mike Raleigh shows Anissa Patterson and Cam Rodriguez how easy it is to use chopsticks

Hadya Azfal, Alexis Johnson & Jake Lukawski

Professor Tom Mockaitis chats with students
As college students, it’s only natural that we interact with professors on a nearly daily basis. But how often are we able to create a genuine connection with them in a classroom setting?

It’s rather difficult to familiarize ourselves with our professors’ personalities outside of the classroom beyond the hour-and-a-half time slots we have with them. They certainly don’t spend every hour of their day lecturing fellow CTA train riders about the history of ancient Egypt or how quantum physics works.

I had the privilege of sitting down to chat with my HON 101 World Literature professor Dr. David Gardiner in order to learn a little bit more about what his life is like, both inside and outside of DePaul’s halls. Dr. Gardiner teaches a grand total of fourteen classes across three different departments in the areas of Irish Studies, WRD/English classes, and his personal favorites, Honors classes. He started teaching at the age of twenty and has loved it ever since: “Every day is new. There’s no two days that are exactly the same, and I think that’s my favorite part about it.”

Dr. Gardiner emphasized that it’s vital for him to enjoy the content he teaches about, explaining, “I would never teach about something I don’t like.” One of the literary works he teaches is James Joyce’s infamous Ulysses, a book regarded as a modernist masterpiece, but simultaneously one of the most difficult texts to read in the English language.

“To be honest, I was very put off by him [Joyce] initially,” he explained. “But over the years, I’ve realized it’s a living text; there’s just so much to it. I still laugh when I read it, and I’ve probably read it close to thirty times now.” He also attributes some of his enjoyment of the story, which is set in Ireland, to his deeply personal experiences with the country.

While Dr. Gardiner actually got his start in teaching here in Chicago after attending the University of Chicago, he moved to Ireland for his graduate degree in 1990 and fell in love with the country; he has considered it his true home ever since. He describes it as a very urban, European location with a more relaxed life pace. Perhaps his favorite part of Irish culture is its emphasis on the arts and letters.

“The Irish Times includes a poetry section in every issue. It’s as normal as the editorial section in American newspapers,” Dr. Gardiner said. He finds that the warmth from his tight-knit Irish community simply doesn’t compare to American cities.

Perhaps one of Dr. Gardiner’s fondest memories of his time in Ireland was during his time at University College-Galway for his graduate degree. As most broke college students, he was looking for a way to earn a little extra cash on nights and weekends, so he sought out Paddy, the owner of the local pub called Fahy’s, to teach in Chicago.

Upon hearing how much he loved Ireland, I was curious as to how he ended up here at DePaul. After teaching at Creighton University for a short time, he decided to retire from teaching entirely and return to Chicago to undertake hospice care for his father. Upon his return, DePaul professor James Murphy reached out to him about a teaching position at DePaul, to which Dr. Gardiner happily accepted. Unfortunately, he hasn’t been able to visit Ireland in over fourteen months and he misses it dearly. While Chicago will never be Dublin, Dr. Gardiner still revels in the familiarity of the city as he continues to teach in Chicago.
Honors Alumni Share Success Stories

By Yamini Bangarusamy

The Honors Program at DePaul University once again had the pleasure of hosting the very popular Honors Alumni Panel event. This year’s panel members included Nikki Tolwin (CSH, 2014), Tessa Bonney (CSH, 2012), Mickie Anderson (LAS, 2014), and Alex Jewell (CDM, 2014). Everyone in the group had the opportunity to discuss their individual Honors Program experiences, how they found their true calling, their paths after completing their undergraduate degree, and advice for students going forward in their college careers.

The first panel member to present was Nikki Tolwin who majored in Health Sciences. During her time at DePaul, she was active in the Honors Program and also served as a Chicago Quarter Mentor. When graduation drew near, her fellow peers were enthusiastically applying to medical school. Tolwin, on the other hand, decided that she did not want to be a doctor and instead decided to pursue her Master’s in Nursing at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Her decision to study and eventually work in the nursing industry was influenced by her service-minded nature and the Vincentian values she had embraced during her time at DePaul. Tolwin works at Shriners Hospitals for Children, a non-profit where patients receive complete services in a family-centered environment, regardless of their ability to pay. Tolwin’s advice to current students is to research and take advantage of all the excellent resources offered at the university, such as the Handshake platform and the Career Center, because they will surely help students become more confident and informed job seekers.

The second panel member to address the audience was Tessa Bonney. Bonney graduated with a degree in Biology. During her time at DePaul, she participated in Student Government, Delta Zeta, and the Honors Program. After a brief stint teaching in Chicago Public Schools, she pursued her Master’s in Public Health with a concentration in health policy and administration at UIC. She is currently pursuing a PhD in occupational health at UIC. Her advice to current students is to broaden their horizons so that they may be exposed to different ideologies, career paths, and opportunities. She adds that college is the perfect time to do this.

The next speaker was Mickie Anderson, who majored in English and participated in various literary societies on campus in addition to serving as an Honors mentor during her time as an undergraduate. She also interned at Top Box foods as a student and eventually accepted her first job with them upon graduation. Following this, she had a brief stint as a recruiter before moving on to become a project assistant at Chapin Hall (University of Chicago) where she works to support anti-child abuse initiatives. Her advice to students as they transition into their professional lives is to constantly assess whether they’re happy in their current positions and to take initiative and do something about their situation if they’re dissatisfied. She also underscores the importance of knowing when to move on from a position to pursue something new so you can continue to build and improve.

The last panel member to speak was Alex Jewell, a Double Demon who completed both his Bachelor’s in Interactive Media and his Master’s in Human Computer Interaction at DePaul. Jewell was active in student government, the Honors newsletter, and the Honors mentor program. He worked as a developer before making his foray into consulting. He currently works at Fiverr in addition to juggling other interesting projects such as creating food Instagram accounts and freelance writing. His advice to students is to actively participate in Honors classes since they challenge existing views and allow an opportunity to transform your thinking.

Overall, I thoroughly enjoyed the panel and am grateful to have had the opportunity to listen to and connect with some wonderful alumni of the Honors Program. My biggest takeaway from the event is to take advantage of the resources and opportunities offered within the Honors Program, the university in general, and, of course, the city of Chicago. Additionally, I learned that I must continually step outside my comfort zone and actively seek out job and networking opportunities in order to be successful.
On Friday, February 2, Political Science Professor Dr. Scott Hibbard presented to Honors students about Islamic militancy and U.S. foreign policy. He spoke about the differences between pre-and post-9/11 foreign policy, and also about the ways in which different presidential eras have changed foreign policy. I found the presentation to be very interesting, especially since none of my high school or college classes so far have covered this topic.

Dr. Hibbard has a lengthy list of accolades and experience. He received the Fulbright Award from the U.S. Department of State, which enabled him to teach at the American University of Cairo in 2009 and 2010. He also worked for the U.S. government for 12 years in the United States Institute of Peace and in the U.S. Congress. Dr. Hibbard even hiked to the base camp of Mount Everest in the fall of 1989, which he says was “one of the highlights” of his life. He specializes in politics of the Middle East, religion, American foreign policy, and human rights.

In the lecture, Dr. Hibbard began by explaining the difference between Islam, Islamist fundamentalism, Islamist militancy, and terrorism. He made it clear that “not all Muslims are fundamentalists and not all fundamentalists are terrorists.” He added that Islamist militant groups have an Islamist ideology and are willing to “use violence to achieve their political goals,” which is different from political Islam.

Dr. Hibbard said that it is important to assess the causes for the rise of extremism, and not to label it as a military problem, because military problems require military intervention. “That’s really great for killing people, but it’s not good for solving problems,” he said. He also said that the militant foreign policies that emerged after 9/11 were reactions to high emotions and hypernationalism. The invasion of Iraq also created an environment in which Islamist militancy spread.

As a political science professor at DePaul, educating students about Islamist militancy and U.S. foreign policy is important to Dr. Hibbard for a variety of reasons, but especially because he enjoys giving back to the community. He said he does talks like this “all the time.”

“I’ve done everything from panels on Iran at the University of Chicago, to academic debates, to giving talks to people at retirement communities, you know, X, Y and Z,” Dr. Hibbard said with a laugh. “It’s part of the service to the community.”

After listening to this presentation, I was surprised that I had never learned about this topic before, and I think that it is extremely important for students to be educated about it. I think that many Americans, particularly college students, do not know the difference between Islamic fundamentalism, extremism, and militancy. I also think that it’s important to understand that the United States is far from perfect in terms of addressing Islamic militancy. Because the United States continues to work with predominantly Muslim nations to fight ISIS and other terrorist groups, it is crucial to have an understanding of how Islamist militancy and foreign policy affects us as U.S. citizens.

I will definitely consider taking one of Hibbard’s classes next year, and I would highly recommend that any DePaul student take a class about a topic related to U.S. foreign policy. Understanding the way in which the United States’ foreign policy affects other nations is eye-opening and provides a new perspective on our country and the world.
Native Son: A Review

By Maiwenn Brethenoux

One of the DePaul Theatre School’s most recent plays is also one of its most controversial, not because of its production, but rather for its subject matter. It is their interpretation of Richard Wright’s 1940 novel, Native Son. This play, written by Nambi E. Kelley, builds on the novel’s theme of denunciation through violence and critiques society’s racial stereotypes.

The injustice of being defined by the way you were born. The dehumanizing and distancing effects of name-calling. These excuses for the unequal treatment towards different peoples have always plagued diverse societies. They go on: the frustration of feeling submitted to another because of these inequalities. The rage brought about by tensions due to such frustrations and tugs-of-war for equality beyond words on paper. The violence wrought out to deal with these issues, when debates are insufficient and unreachable.

Why do these morbid and controversial ideas sound so familiar?

Perhaps because these issues still plague the mind of our society as much as they did almost 100 years ago. As Bri Schwartz asks in the dramaturgy note from the show’s playbill, “What about now? In our current age of police brutality, travel bans, and other forms of profiling, [do] white people in power still control the fate of people of color?” Or, indeed, that of all minorities? For instance, is there not still segregation through Chicago’s infamous redlining?

The novel Native Son depicts a poor young black man, Bigger Thomas, in late 1930s Chicago Blackbelt, wondering whether his existence is his own, or defined – by both how he must live and who he must be – by the white authorities. The authorities allow his family to suffer and force the submission of their humanity – for if they are not equal, it is like saying that these groups are less than human. This self-doubt, shown as Bigger’s gang rules out the robbery of a white man’s store because of his skin color (and the consequences of this detail), manifests itself as anger. In the play, DePaul’s actors show this uncertainty of young and categorized individuals beautifully, as they advance and retreat time and again, wanting to show that they are free to do as they like, but reticent to go so ‘far.’

Bigger’s murderous and violent actions, in part due to this social helplessness and feeling of entrapment, cause him to question the position he has been forced into, and our school’s production works to show this too, by the addition of a character called “Black Rat” (played by Michael Morrow). At once revolted by the humiliation of persons through racial insults, and unwilling to lurk beyond the shadows of this ideological confinement, this personification of Bigger’s psyche both smirks at amateurish racial slights – lashing out inwardly, as it were; and reasons on how best to survive – even if it means killing possible witnesses. The creation of this character to show Bigger’s loneliness and introspection is a brilliant incorporation by the Theatre School’s troupe.

In fact, the core of the performance is articulated by this character, as he echoes the words written by Mikael Burke: “When I look in the mirror, who do I see? / Myself as I am? Or, who society tells me I am? In this world where others’ opinions of who we are, what we are, and what we are or are not capable of permeate every waking moment, how do we become our truest selves?” Such questions about self-deception and complicity (with society’s unjust and incorrect assumptions) propel this entire story. The theme emerges as Bigger seeks a chauffeur job, as with little education he can only do menial labor, and as he kills the daughter of his white boss, Mary, because he is afraid of being caught in her bedroom with her (whilst only putting her to bed, mind). Bigger, despite his disgust with society’s current socio-economic structure, is also obsessed with somehow maintaining that order, in fear of the consequences of such a maneuver. Bigger’s conflict and confusion is played excellently by DePaul’s Matthew James Elam, in a way that shows the rare character that is a disheartening and realistic ‘low-rung’ persona, sympathetically portrayed.

Packed with socially-charged questions that still send waves through our society, this play brings to the surface, in an almost disturbingly real and close way, some of the issues we must all face. How do we eliminate the fear of entire communities of those who should be protecting them? How do we act against ideas so deeply rooted and unconsciously developed and accepted that they usually aren’t even conscious? What must be done? And once we have asked that question, we must truthfully respond to: can we rise up to the challenge of so broad a feat?
If you live on the Loop Campus and slept in on January 21, it probably wasn’t long-lived. On that brisk, sunny Saturday morning, the cheers and clamor of 300,000 people roared and resounded down Jackson Blvd. to rally for women’s rights during the second Women’s March.

To be fair, I didn’t get to sleep in either and arrived at Jackson and Columbus at 9 a.m., when the actual March wasn’t scheduled until 12:30 p.m. Consequently, I stood for three hours longer than necessary in the cold with aching legs, but I was among the first hundred marchers, and got to watch the thousands of women and men of all ages and backgrounds flooding in to assemble in solidarity.

The sheer numbers were astonishing; however, what really struck me is that the March wasn’t just in support of gender equality. Advocates came together for a plethora of causes, including Black Lives Matters, LGBTQIA+ rights, support for DACA, intersectional feminism, and anti-Islamophobia. Because this year’s theme was “March to the Polls,” calling for government representation to support these movements and values, it seemed appropriate that all of them had gathered to make their voices heard.

Despite the chants and speeches, slogans and signs, the most important sentiment stressed that while we had all congregated on that cold January morning, voting in the Illinois primary in March and the midterm elections in November are where our voices will truly be heard. March to the Polls represented a call for voters to elect more representatives who support values and policies that marchers were rallying to support and shed light on, with an overwhelming emphasis on electing more women to office.

As someone who wasn’t old enough to vote in 2016, it’s amazing to me how I can now make a difference. My mom always told me that, “evil thrives where good men do nothing.”
which is what really compelled me to partake in the March.

The particular evil that inspired me is the increasing prevalence of sexual harassment and assault accusations in the news over the last few months. The pervasiveness of the #MeToo and Time's Up campaigns testify to how critical the situation is. While I was driven to stand in solidarity with victims and survivors of sexual abuse, many marchers were motivated by agitation against the president.

The first Women's March was organized last year in response to President Trump's election, and the anti-Trump sentiment this year was just as fervent if not more vehement. Although President Trump has had a number of allegations of sexual misconduct leveled against him and has little regard for a woman's right to choose, among other women's health rights, I was surprised that more was said against Trump than actually advocating for women's equality.

Despite the particularly strong anti-Trump sentiment, that fact that marchers were gathered for various causes was not drowned out and is what made the experience so awe-inspiring. Being surrounded by the passion and drive of the speakers, organizers, and marchers really emphasized that change is possible, and that I was part of it.

I encourage all students to march in the future or get involved in any movement that resonates with them, no matter the magnitude. The technology and opportunities available to us today allow our voices to be heard so easily. With elections right around the corner, and as members of the Honors community at DePaul, it's up to us to step up as leaders. We really are the future and play a role in shaping it the way that we want to by standing against injustice and fighting for causes we believe in.
DemonTHON Fights For The Kids

By Sydney Begerowski

Every year, DemonTHON works to fundraise money For The Kids at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital. Last year alone, we raised $276,261.50 which brought our running total to $1,276,261.50. This makes us the largest, student-run philanthropic organization on campus—and we can’t do it alone.

Much of our support comes from Dancers, or people who form teams and help us fundraise in order to attend the Big Event—aka that action-packed 24-hour dance marathon. This year, DemonTHON is switching it up a bit by dividing those 24 hours into two 12-hour blocks in order to make the event even more accessible and enjoyable (and less exhausting) for every dancer involved! By fundraising just $350 with the help of our committee, anyone can attend the event.

The idea of fundraising seemed very daunting to me when I first got involved, but I quickly learned that the DemonTHON committee and other dancers on my team were there to help. The most inspiring part was learning what that money actually does. Lurie Children’s Hospital does not turn away a single family. That means regardless of anything, including income, a child who needs care will receive care. Some of the money that we raise goes directly to helping with those costs so Lurie Children’s can continue to offer groundbreaking health care.

As a Morale Captain, I’m happy to say this year I became a member of the committee, serving as Director of High School Relations. I love any and every chance that I get to inspire others to join such a wonderful organization and truly understand what it means to be For The Kids. DemonTHON quickly became more than just a group to me; it’s where I met my best friends and where I continue to be inspired by some of the strongest kids I’ve ever seen. As members of an Honors Program that prides itself on community and service, I hope you will all join us in being this generation fighting for the next.

To get involved as an Honors Program DemonTHON team member, go to: http://bit.ly/2EJqgMe.

DemonTHON Morale Captain and Honors student Sydney Begerowski along with Honors student Cooper Packard dance for the kids at last year’s DemonTHON. You can have this much fun too by participating in this year’s DemonTHON with your Honors Program friends! (Photo courtesy of Sydney Begerowski).
We as an American society are at a crossroads in politics today, with the choice of either remaining with a crumbling status quo or choosing a progressive, forward-thinking future. People often tell us college students that we'll be saddled with debt for decades, that there are few job opportunities for college graduates, and that there's less hope for our generation than any before us.

But I believe that building a dynamic future is within our generation's power—we have the drive, the creativity, and the intellect to achieve it. While we are indeed growing up in an unstable time and face many challenges, millennials are somehow still among the most optimistic generations in history. We're especially confident in our ability to create our own success, and we aren't just waiting for change to come to us— we're actively building the future we want.

I try to be the change I want to see in the world which is why, at 18 years old, I'm running for DuPage County Board in District 4. As the daughter of Pakistani immigrants, I've always been taught that the most important thing that I can do is serve my community. When I was 16, I jumped at the chance to serve as an election judge in the 2016 primary and general elections. I was up from 5:00 AM to 11:00 PM, working the polls, helping my neighbors with their ballots, and then manually counting those same ballots at the end of the night. Sitting on the floor among hundreds of paper ballots, I marveled in the pure democracy of the moment.

I relished the chance to serve, and I kept going. I worked with the DuPage Democrats this past summer in a summer-long issue canvass, going door-to-door in the sweltering heat and asking people across DuPage what issues were most important to them. I also attended County Board meetings and saw that there was a partisan Republican monopoly of those in attendance at these meetings.

I'm running on the basis that representation matters. Of our 18 County Board members in DuPage, there is only one Democrat, only 4 women, no minorities, and no one under the age of 30. This is not right. I believe that as DuPage County’s demographics change, the local officials should reflect the areas they serve. DuPage County is a diverse place with people of all ages, races, and religions, and I believe that as a young Muslim woman, I can embody the progressive values and uphold the decent dialogue that will make DuPage County a stronger and better place for everyone.

The Daily Herald newspaper recently endorsed my two competitors over me and wrote that, “Afzal is impressive, but not yet ready.” And in response to that I ask: what constitutes “ready?” I've grown up in DuPage—I know the problems affecting the people in the county from first-hand experience and issue canvassing. I'm willing to meet and speak with constituents, and I've proposed solid legislation that will directly build a better DuPage County for everyone living in it. I'm not shaped by outside agendas, but purely driven by passion for my community. People wouldn't have described the 17- and 18-year-olds from Parkland, Florida as “ready,” but their activism illustrates the fact that anyone can affect change—especially us, the generation that's aware of the problems we're inheriting and are actively fighting to solve them.
Studying abroad in Japan was less like a trip and more like spending two weeks in the most incredible dream I’ve ever had.

I had always wanted the chance to travel to Japan, but being a financially insecure, monolingual college student, I wasn’t really sure if I’d ever get the chance. When I saw that there was a game design(animation study abroad trip, I applied immediately. Fall quarter was way too long, but when it was finally November, my class of 20 students made the long flight to Japan.

Our trip was split into three parts: two days sightseeing in Kyoto, three days of a game/animation jam with a group of Japanese college students in Nagoya, and a week of studio visits and exploration in Tokyo. Each part of the trip was equal parts incredible and surreal, and it took me until almost the end of the trip to even process where we were.

We spent our two days in Kyoto visiting shrines and climbing mountains. Each shrine felt more complex and beautiful than the last, and several times we joked that perhaps we had slipped into another dimension populated by wild cats and peaceful spirits.

My favorite place in Kyoto was the Fushimi Inari shrine, a shrine that winds all the way up a mountain, and is made up of thousands of bright orange gates. We climbed the mountain in the late afternoon, and upon reaching the top, were treated to an incredible view of the city right as the sun was setting. It was one of the most peaceful moments of my life that truly helped me realize how lucky I was to be exploring a new place with a group of new friends.

Nagoya was equally wonderful, but in a different way. Instead of exploring the city, we spent our time working with a group of students from Trident University. Initially the language barrier was a bit frustrating, but before long we all got the hang of hand signs and translate apps, and it felt like we had all been friends forever. Coincidentally, the theme of the jam was friendship, which resulted in several very fun games (including one about a grumpy ghost, exploring the Vatican, and a lost fish princess) and a gorgeous animation created completely by us!

The final leg of our trip took us to Tokyo. For a fan of Japanese media and video games like me, visiting Tokyo was like going to a version of New York City completely tailored to my interests. While the other cities we visited were special in their own ways, Tokyo was probably my favorite place to visit. We were given a lot more freedom to find our own way, and so in between group activities such as dinner or studio tours, a few friends and I found our way to the fashion district Harajuku, the Pokemon Center, and several animal cafes. I loved getting to try all sorts of different types of ramen and tempura, as well as getting to explore the gorgeous city of Tokyo both by myself and with my classmates.

The other main focus of our time in Tokyo was touring several game design and animation studios. While initially a little imposing, we all got over our nerves and got to spend some time learning all about what it’s like to work in the industry. Some of our class was able to tour OLM, the studio that makes all of the Pokemon films and TV shows, and some of our class was able to tour Studio Trigger, who made anime like Kill la Kill and Little Witch Academia. Getting to tour these studios and talk to employees was an incredible opportunity, and I came away from it with a much

One of the many unique treats travelers to Japan can enjoy (Photo by Claire Rohrbach).
A Cat-Friendly Office

By Amy Walus

DePaul students who take classes on the Lincoln Park campus have likely seen the Chicago Costume storefront located at 1120 West Fullerton, a full-service costume shop with a colorful facade that sells retail and rental costumes, theatrical makeup, and accessories. When I started interning at Chicago Costume, I was immersed into a friendly, family-run culture, where people knew each other by name. The friendly atmosphere is the same at both the Lincoln Park location and the warehouse in Portage Park. It is such a fun place to work, which isn’t surprising, considering that we help people create looks for parties and events daily.

A Cat-Friendly Office

By Amy Walus

During my shifts on a flexible schedule that I am able to set myself, I usually work with the general manager and his wife, who serves as the purchasing manager and creative director. We bounce ideas and projects off of each other, place phone calls, and catch up on the latest in the entertainment world.

The joke’s been thrown around a few times that I am learning more than I ever wanted to since spending time back there, but the fact is that I am grateful for opportunity to see the front lines of a family-run business and have such easy access to my supervisor, something I am sure many interns don’t experience.

Licorice, the resident costume cat who sits on my lap begging to be petted, contributes to the laid-back and comfortable atmosphere, but it certainly is hard work. There is no time for goofing off when you can see exactly what the others in the office are doing at any given second. This also allows for collaboration between those in the office to be seamless. Just a turn of a computer screen allows for proofreading and double checking, which is really what the space is designed to be, collaborative. It’s a space for the process forged over years, one where sharing ideas and knowledge is a staple, which I am grateful for as an intern.

Graphic by Caroline Schlegel

Trident University students welcomed the DePaul study abroad group (Photo courtesy of Claire Rohrbach).
By the Book: How DePaul Students Can Use The Harold Washington Library

By Justin Myers

University students across Chicago have the opportunity to obtain membership with the Chicago Public Library System. The library system, which has locations scattered throughout the city, is centered one block south of DePaul’s Loop campus along State Street in the Harold Washington Library Center (HWLC) complex. For DePaul students who have attended classes in the Loop, the presence of the library is evident by its namesake Brown Line stop or by the ten-story building’s whimsical exterior of elaborate brickwork crowned and dotted with fantastic metal sculptures. Details include four 12-foot-high barn owls with 3-foot-high heads on the corners of the building’s roof.

The library, which arose out of various civic efforts in the last half of the twentieth century, is an architectural gem of Chicago. From one of the largest collections of academic and leisure publications in the country to publicly accessible resources of 3-D printers and workshops, the HWLC is a valuable resource to DePaul students just steps away from the Loop campus.

The process to obtain an official library card is simple—just present a student ID and official piece of mail sent to your Chicago address, such as a bill, letter, or other correspondence. The HWLC can be used and accessed by anyone, with or without a card.

What does the library have in store for those visiting it? For those with a card, the library provides the ability to check out books, free entrance to study rooms, music practice rooms, the library’s special collections containing rare artifacts and documents spanning multiple disciplines. Visitors also have access to technologies such as 3-D printers and digital cutters. The library also hosts public lectures on various subjects, and workshops on topics ranging from skills relating to homemade crafts and technological creations to skills pertaining to economic responsibility, such as how to complete your own taxes.

For those who would prefer to browse its facilities before applying for an official card, the library still has much to offer. The library is open to anyone with a desire to leaf through its collections and provides scanners scattered throughout which allow you to scan and email materials for your personal use outside of the building without charge. Its collections, which are unparalleled elsewhere in the city, range from vast expanses of reference books to sheet music, novels of both fiction and nonfiction interests, newspaper records, and much more. There are plenty of tables and study spaces for students to work before or after classes.

Not interested in browsing the racks? The ninth floor of the library is a hub of alternative opportunities for you to enjoy the HWLC. The ninth floor contains the stunning winter garden, one of the most beautiful study areas in the city. The winter garden, an impressive solarium with sweeping views of the city open year-round, provides tables and carrels for the public to enjoy. Just be aware that it is also prime real estate for private events, such as weddings, and is subject to closure on certain days. In addition, the ninth floor includes a museum space detailing the life and career of the late and respected Mayor Harold Washington as well as a rotating exhibit space.

The beautiful winter gardens space on the ninth floor of the Harold Washington Library.
Volunteering with the Logan Square Neighborhood Association

By Hadiya Afzal

Before I came to DePaul, I had experience in neighborhood canvassing, but it had only been in DuPage County, where I grew up. I was able to point to the high school I graduated from and cite my park district soccer days to build bonds with the people whose doors I knocked on. My time volunteering with the Logan Square Neighborhood Association in a completely new environment was much different.

Already a transplant into the city of Chicago for school, going to work in a new neighborhood was an even more unfamiliar experience. I speak French and Urdu, two languages that did me little good when working in the overwhelmingly Hispanic and Latinx community. But I found that language counted for less than empathy did. In one case, my supervisor was speaking to some tenants as my colleagues and I stood behind him while they spoke in Spanish.

As I concentrated on their speech, I could tell from the cadence of the tenant’s words that he was setting up a joke whose punchline he delivered triumphantly. I laughed out of habit, and he looked at me in surprise and said, “You speak Spanish?” I tried to explain that I didn’t, but he waved off my protests. As we walked out of his apartment later, my colleagues turned to me and asked the same question: “How did you know what he was saying?” I had to explain that I was just concentrating on him: I wasn’t paying attention to the surrounding details, but instead, the man speaking to us.

This, for me, was one of the defining moments of my time with LSNA. We canvassed neighborhoods, spoke to aldermen, and studied the links between gentrification and zoning ordinances, but the everyday interactions with residents were the most important conversations I had. I was able to learn how to build relationships with people different from myself and use those new skills to work towards creating positive change with and for them.

The Logan Square Neighborhood Association has been working in the area since 1962 and pledged that, “To ensure that the voices of all Logan Square residents are heard, every piece of LSNA’s work is done in deep consultation and partnership with leaders in the community, including clergy, principals, teachers, parents, and other institution and neighborhood leaders.” My time with LSNA only proved that mission statement to be true, through inclusive programs like the youth outreach programs at LSNA that encourage civic engagement among students, urging them to get involved with their neighborhood and the policies that affect it. Along with their work with schools and students in the area, LSNA also works in tandem with local policymakers, partnering with the alderman’s office to hold community meetings for Logan Square residents regarding important legislation that affects the neighborhood.

The Logan Square Neighborhood Association has proven to be a powerful voice for community activism in Logan Square and surrounding areas, and I’m lucky to have been able to work with, and under, the kind of local community leaders that create real, lasting, positive change.
Charlotte Meffe
This is my first tattoo. It is the balloon from Winnie the Pooh, when he sings “I’m just a little black rain cloud, hovering over the honey tree.” It is a song my parents would sing to me as a child to fall asleep, and then I started singing it to my little sister who is ten years younger than me. To me, it is a symbol of childhood and how lucky I was to have the supportive family that I do. The mantra behind it is “You are enough,” because we all need to believe in ourselves before we can believe in the rest of the world.

Madi Kennedy
This is my second tattoo and I got it just last month. It’s located on my right arm and it is a sketch-type drawing of the pyramid at the Louvre museum in Paris with the date 4-13-17 written below it. Last spring, I went on my first trip to Paris with my high school art class. We flew in on 4-13-17 and went straight to the Louvre right from the airport. It is the first piece of Paris that I had ever experienced, so it holds a special place in my heart. I have taken French in school since the sixth grade and I hope to one day return to France because it is one of the most beautiful and cultured places that I have ever been to. This tattoo is very special to me because every time I look at it, I am reminded of the amazement that I felt looking at the pyramid for the first time.

Anonymous
My tattoo is a black and white outline of my favorite flower, Black Eyed Susan, which was also my uncle’s favorite flower. He played an important role in my life and taught me many, many things. In 2010, I lost my uncle to suicide. I decided the best way to remember him was to grow Black Eyed Susans, so I planted a patch of them that I tended to every year since that day. When I decided to come to DePaul in 2016, I was heartbroken upon realizing it would be nearly impossible to continue growing these in the residence hall. I decided that a little, permanent outline would be a perfect reminder of him that I could always have with me. It has come to be more than just a reminder of him, but also a reminder to be resilient in difficult times and that to seek help when in need.

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Michaela Jacob
I have known I wanted a tattoo for a few years. Every year as my birthday rolls around, I consider getting one as a gift to myself. The clavicle has been my favorite location for a tattoo, and one night I decided it was time. I took to Pinterest and came across a photo of a girl with birds across her clavicle. I knew immediately that this was the tattoo I wanted, and I got it three days after I saw the photo. I used to be terrified of birds. I would not even visit Chicago with my family for fear of the pigeons. Once I moved to the city to attend DePaul University, I knew that I was going to need to get used to them. I didn’t expect how much I would come to love them. I worked with the birds of prey at the Shedd Aquarium for a year and learned about the magnificent animals in various lectures. I came to see a beauty in them and appreciate their representation of freedom. I decided on this tattoo as a reminder to conquer your fears and to see the beauty in the world. I love how it turned out, and I know this is something I am going to cherish forever.

The stereotype that tattoos only belong to bikers, sailors, and rebels is long over. Now, people often view tattoos for what they are—pieces of art that reflect part of an individual’s identity. As tattoos increase in popularity, workplaces continue to accept them more and more. People across the DePaul community bear wearable art on their skin, and Honors students are no different. Honorable Mentions asked students to send in their tattoo stories, and eleven women answered the call. Below, find the unique, personal, and diverse stories these Honors students shared about their tattoos.
Aliza Bromberg

“Hey, cool tattoo! What level do you climb?” I hate this question. I hate seeing the disappointed faces when I say “I don’t.” These faces quickly turn to confusion as people think, “Why would this girl get a permanent tattoo of a piece of climbing equipment if she doesn’t climb.” Instead of asking this, since no one wants to come across as rude, they ask the dreaded question that every person who has a tattoo has answered countless times, “Oh, so what does it mean?” So here’s my answer...

I did use to climb, when I was a kid at camp. I climbed on the camp’s shitty outdoor rockwall with spiders and dirt ALL over it. When I got old enough, I climbed on the slightly nicer tower that only the big kids got to use. But I never climbed in a gym because I’m really not great at it and I really don’t want to make a fool of myself. The thing that inspired me to get my tattoo was not the actual climbing, but rather the people who I did it with. Four years before I got it, my friend Steph and I were at the shitty rockwall helping some little kids learn to climb. We were 14 and working as CITs at the camp where we had become friends so many years before. We felt nostalgic watching the kids scramble up the wall and remembered when we were just like them. I was playing with one of the carabiners that wasn’t in use and said, offhandedly, “Wouldn’t it be cool to have a tattoo of this?” Four years later, here we are. But a lot happened over those four years that made the ink mean even more. Mainly, I got sad, like really really sad.

At this point you’re probably thinking, “What does being sad have to do with a carabiner?” Well, let me explain myself. Freshman year of high school, I was super alone. I didn’t have many friends and I wasn’t comfortable telling people how I was feeling. It sucked. It wasn’t until the next year that I started making closer friendships and opening up to people more. I realized that other people were the solution to how to feel less sad. Other people are able to look objectively at a situation you’re in, give you advice, and catch you when you fall: the same responsibilities as someone who is helping you on a climbing wall.

When I made this connection, I was convinced that I wanted this tattoo. Now it’s not only a reminder of my childhood experiences, but when I look at it every day, I remember that I am not alone and I don’t need to deal with all of life’s problems by myself.

Paige Gilberg

My tattoo is a tribute to the passion, urgency, and productive anger associated with the “naiveté” of young adulthood and its supposed idealisms. The tattoo is a reference to “The Flame,” a poem by Terrance Hayes. It is a culmination of several lines throughout the piece: “I am sixteen, age of blood, age the bravest / meaning the most desperate... I have done this. Felt the rough blue pull / of denim & later, the teeth of sweat, / the embarrassment spawned by too much passion.” This poem, which I came across during my senior year of high school, is a beautiful and comprehensive representation of how eighteen-year-old Paige viewed herself. As someone who was relentlessly writing about, posting about, and arguing about the injustices of the world we live in, adults around me had no qualms telling me that I was too young, too idealistic, and incredibly misinformed. Most family members, teachers, and fellow students didn’t understand what I was so angry about.

In my affluent suburb, it didn’t make sense to be angry. To me, that was just it. If I had the privileges and the opportunities to be in allyship with the oppressed, to fight for fellow LGBTQ individuals, to pursue an education that would help me to maybe make change, then why wouldn’t I? To quote Toni Morrison, “Your real job is that you are free, you need to free somebody else. If you have some power, then your job is to empower somebody else.”

When I attempted to engage the adults around me on these injustices, when I questioned why we live in a world plagued by every horrible hatred and every type of corruption there is, I was often met with the same response: that’s just how the world works. I was told that when I grew up, I would understand why certain things happen the way that they do. I was told that I would learn to accept what couldn’t be changed.

And that lit the flame. As I have matured, I have come to understand that there are realities and evils in this world that eighteen-year-old Paige could not comprehend. It is an impossible goal to want to stamp them out completely. But this does not mean we cannot resist them and strive to fix what is within our control. There is much to be done. This tattoo is a reminder, not just to hold onto the emotions which motivate me to make change, but to let every age be “age the bravest.” To never be complicit, to never stop fighting, and to never be embarrassed by having too much passion.
English Alumni Panel: Recap & Review

By Riley McLaughlin

DePaul hosted an English Alumni Panel in which three alumni of the DePaul Graduate English program came back to the university to share their education and career experiences with interested students on Tuesday, February 20th. I am an English-Creative Writing Major, and I am still deciding what career path I want to follow after I graduate. I knew that this panel would give me insights on different types of graduate programs, and help me further consider if graduate school is something I am really interested in pursuing.

Marcy, Dylan, and Tim were the three panelists. Marcy received an undergraduate degree in Journalism from Northwestern. However, after working as a journalist for two years, she realized the broadcast industry was not for her and instead hoped to pursue writing, but quickly realized she did not have the experience or writing samples to acquire a job. She completed one year of an MFA program in Minnesota in Children and Young Adult Literature. Because she wanted to instead focus on nonfiction, she then transferred to DePaul for an MA. She began avidly pursuing and completing unpaid internships, which allowed her to network and then later obtain her current job position.

The next panelist was Tim, who did not pursue an undergraduate degree until much later than most young adults. He worked in the insurance industry prior to attending DePaul’s School for New Learning, which is specifically geared towards older students. His graduate studies here truly allowed him to embrace his passions for reading, writing, and learning. Tim chose the program due to its ability to allow him to focus on creative nonfiction, but still explore other genres, and even touch on publishing and the industry surrounding it. His education here allowed him to venture into the freelance writing industry, eventually leading him to found his own creative copywriting company which employs writers. The creative, storytelling abilities of the workers of Tim’s company is truly what propels the business.

The third and final panelist, Dylan, was an English undergraduate major, but was still unsure of what he wanted to pursue career-wise. He worked at a law firm for two years, but realized he did not enjoy it. He then came to DePaul for an MA in English, which is where he really discovered his love for poetry. He is currently finishing up his graduate studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he is also working as a teaching assistant. As of now, he is undecided if he wants to go the teaching route or instead enter the realm of copywriting. However, the reason he decided to also take up MFA studies is due to this undecidedness in terms of his career, as well as his desire to continue to explore the craft of poetry and future possibilities for himself.

This event really taught me the differences between MFA and MA programs, as well as the similarities. While you need an MFA if you want to teach, both programs can be structured extremely similarly. Also, another piece of information that I did not know was that graduate programs do not have to put you in debt—in fact, Dylan mentioned how many, like his, actually pay you a small amount to be a student for a few years. In all, this panel was well worth it, and truly opened my eyes to the realities of pursuing an MA or MFA in English and the many positive attributes of these programs.
Poetry by Anabel Watson

Melt into the Night:
Based on the song “In a Manner of Speaking” by Nouvelle Vague

Melt into the night  
Soft charcoal  
Painting a canvas of melancholy

Hints of delight  
Singing our souls  
Into pools of an inky, ineffable peace

Things that could never be  
Longing for lovers  
Lost through the stream of time

A flowing and lonely reality  
Impossible futures  
Potential resigned

A mournful and beautiful trend  
Beyond our control  
The lullaby failing to send

Tales for Stale Bread
He wanders, approaching the city  
And under the midnight gloom  
He follows nothing  
But the pulls of curiosity

Alone  
Somewhere in the deep blue  
The solemn rubble parts  
As this traveler makes his lonesome presence

Known  
And passes through a crumbling wall  
To a world of shaded copper and crimson whispers

Weary city dwellers pass the time  
They nod  
And the traveler finds a tattered rug  
To warm himself

He observes while whispers near  
And dwellers seek his musical tones  
Telling tales for stale bread

Anticipation  
Sweeps the room  
For here a man with words of value,  
Worth attention, offers up a rose

In a field of dying vine  
Hours pass and not one dweller leaves  
The poetry of knowledge

And the history of voyages  
Live for a night  
But as the wanderer retreats  
From a part in the rubble of lightened blue

The city sleeps in drowsy solitude  
Dreaming of a single silhouette  
Traced with a hue of gold

Just Let Go
Just be  
Free  
And do as existence takes us  
Relinquish our thoughts  
Our autonomy, our reality

Nothing conforms us  
Nothing anchors  
Ankles and wrists  
Not tied to society

But succinctly dancing  
In rhythm to the beat of the all

Who are we?  
We don’t care one bit  
We become where we go  
And we go where we be  
Free
Darndest Things

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

“There has been too much bamboozling this week!”

“If we were hamsters, we could use a pick-up line like ‘have you been to hamsterdam?’”

“Beef without Giardiniera is like ice cream without a cone.”

“She looks like a wet floor sign just doing its best.”

“If only there were “what if” DPR’s for life…”

“I am welcoming the sweet embrace of merciful death. I am ready.”

“Jesus, you have a cold. Calm down.”

“You know your boyfriend is a badass when he does his physics work in pen.”

“A little bit of hand cereal to get you through the day?”

“There should be gerbil feeders in classrooms.”

“If you used your meal plan money during the first week of school, you’re doing something wrong.”

“I’ve got some juicy dirt”

“My goal is to start a romance.”

“Bad dancing saves lives.”

“That’s mud. You are talking about mud”
Spring Quarter Calendar of Events

Tuesday, March 20  Spring Break officially begins

Monday, March 26  Begin Spring Quarter 2018

Friday, April 6  HSG Meeting – 3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404
Honors Ball, 7:00-10:00 p.m., Cortelyou Commons

Wednesday, April 11  Spring Theatre Outing – *Three Sisters*,
Theatre Building, 2350 N. Racine

Friday, April 20  HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404

Thursday, April 26  Student-Faculty Dinner – 5-6 p.m., TBD

Friday, May 4  HSG Meeting—3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404

Friday, May 18  Honors Student Conference, 3:00-6:00 p.m., 3rd Floor, Student Center

Saturday, May 19  Honors Senior Gala, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Rm. 120, Student Center

Friday, May 25  HSG Meeting (Elections) – 3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404

Friday, June 1  HSG Meeting (New Board presides) – 3:30 p.m., Rm. 1404

Monday, June 4  Begin Spring Quarter Final Exams

Friday, June 8  End Spring Quarter 2018

Visit the DePaul Honors Program’s Web Page:
academics.depaul.edu/honors
"Make it a practice to judge persons and things in the most favorable light at all times and under all circumstances."
Saint Vincent DePaul