HONORABLE UPDATES
Words from the HSG President
By: Kurt Edlund

DePaul Honors Community,
An entire school year has gone by. In the beginning of fall quarter 2020, DePaul sent students a package with these words emblazoned on the outside of the box: “Welcome to a year like no other.” It’s a short message—only seven words. However, the meaning layered into these words knows no bounds. The cardboard box of this simple package was a finite quantity; however, its interpretations are forever increasingly growing like our universe continues to expand. Now, clearly, my astrophysics lectures are supernova-ing their way into my writings; however, the message holds true. Most of us had a taste of DePaul Zoomiversity in spring 2020; however, no one could have ever predicted or expected the challenges, hardships, and utter sadness that this 2020-2021 school year would bring. Of course, it is always important to view the world through a lens of looking at the good things in your life because it can usually always be worse. But perhaps that is what made this school year so different from all of the other school years we have all experienced. For some, this school year was the absolute-rock-bottom-worst-case-scenario-apocalyptic disaster. I’ve most certainly been there this school year. I could sit here and tell you that time heals all wounds and that things will get better. But then I would be lying to you. I don’t believe that time heals wounds. Especially the wounds of this year in particular that have cut so deep. The pain will always be there; however, we will all just get better at faking it.

We won’t have to fake one thing for much longer: our physical location. In just a few short months, classes will start up again for fall quarter at DePaul’s campuses once again! Zoom cubes and virtual backgrounds will not be such a vital and intrinsic component of our college experience. We’ll trade Zoom class waiting rooms for the chit-chat between peers before class begins. We’ll trade pajamas and only dressing our top half to actually having to put on entire outfits of clothes again. We’ll trade in our ability to stare into computer screens during class to professors that once again ban technology in the physical classroom. All of these changes are exciting and something to look forward to. However, so many people cannot look forward to these changes.

The DePaul Class of 2020 and Class of 2021 are quite literally left out of this equation. After online graduations kicked both groups of students out of the door without any of the usual fanfare and pomp and circumstance, I truly hope that DePaul reconciles with both graduating classes of students to provide the closure of an in-person graduation ceremony of some kind to these thousands of Blue Demons—some of whom, like myself, have been dreaming about their college graduation for years. One thing has been a great constant throughout this year at DePaul—the HSG E-Board. This year’s E-Board has by far been the most productive and most cohesive E-Board that I’ve been a part of because we pulled off so many great events and accomplishments while holding all of our meetings virtually! From the Honors Freshman Welcome back in August to game nights after meetings, this E-Board has truly been a creative engine in the Honors students’ experience. A big round of applause to the entire E-Board—Elizabeth Whitcomb, Lauren Berry, Ali Arsalanuddin, Zach Cherian, Natalia Semaniuk, Bhavi Vashi, Bethany Kujawinski, Gia Pappas, Ben Stumpe, David Taullahu, and Julia Matuszek! This year of Honors Student Government would have not been the same without each and every one of you!

As we reemerge from our homes—much like the Brood X of cicadas that come every 17 years and will emerge in a few weeks—we must never forget the lessons we’ve learned, the hardships and sadness we’ve endured, and the people we’ve lost. Through remembering all of this, we’ll be able to create a better future for everyone and every honors student. As we move cautiously towards an in-person reality again, I challenge the new Honors E-Board to reimagine the Honors Program experience. Take what we’ve learned over one year of remote, virtual university to envision a better and new Honors Student Government that will engage with more honors students than ever before. This call to action is what I want to leave the new Honors Student Government E-Board with to ruminate about, ideate about, brainstorm about and then create it and make the reality of HSG in the years to come better than ever before!

This is Kurt Edlund signing off as the President of DePaul Honors Student Government.
New HSG E-Board for 2021-2022

*Honorable Mentions* would like to say a big thank you to this year’s Honors Student Government Executive Board. Through many Zoom meetings, and many virtual activities planned for students, they persevered through and made Honors Program students feel welcome and a part of the Honors community.

We would also like to congratulate the students elected to next year’s executive board. We look forward to seeing you all in person in the fall!

### 2020-2021 HSG Officers

**President**
Kurt Edlund

**Vice President/Treasurer**
Elizabeth Whitcomb

**Communications Director**
Lauren Berry

**Academic Representatives**
Ali Arsalanuddin
Zach Cherian

**Ambassador Co-Chairs**
Natalia Semaniuk
Bhavi Vashi

**Service Co-Chairs**
Gia Pappas
Bethany Kujawinski

**Social Co-Chairs**
Ben Stumpe
David Taullahu

**Newsletter Editors**
Julia Matuszek
Ben Stumpe

### 2021-2022 HSG Officers

**President**
Elizabeth Whitcomb

**Vice President/Treasurer**
Ben Stumpe

**Communications Director**
Liz Bazzoli

**Academic Representatives**
Ali Arsalanuddin
Zach Cherian

**Ambassador Co-Chairs**
Shayaan Bin-Kamran
Madison Hanna

**Service Co-Chairs**
Joana Diaz
Bethany Kujawinski

**Social Co-Chairs**
Anna Lavalley
Zeeshan Muzammil

**Newsletter Editors**
Julia Matuszek
Ben Stumpe
HONORABLE EVENTS
Honorable Mentions Survey Results

A few weeks ago, the Honorable Mentions staff asked students in the Honors Program about their opinions regarding DePaul’s return back to campus and the COVID-19 vaccines. Students were asked three questions: what are you most excited for once you return to DePaul’s campus, in general, how do you feel about the COVID-19 vaccines, and what are your feelings on DePaul’s requirement for students to be fully vaccinated before they return to campus for the 2021 Fall Quarter.

46.7% of students are most excited to spend time with their friends and meet new ones, 40% of students are most excited for in-person classes, and 13.3% of students who responded are excited to be able to explore the city of Chicago.

For the second question regarding students’ opinions on the COVID-19 vaccines in general, a vast majority of students expressed that they have already received the vaccine and they believe it is safe, effective, and necessary to return to normal life. One person was indifferent, and a couple of students mistrusted or were hesitant about receiving the vaccines because of a lack of research on their long-term effects.

For the third question regarding DePaul’s decision to require the vaccine, a majority of students stated that they think it was a smart and necessary decision to ensure the health and safety of all students. Many students felt more comfortable coming back to campus after the university’s announcement. Although most students agreed with the university’s decision, a good number of students (16.7% of respondents) expressed indifference. Only a few respondents disagreed with the university’s decision stating that since the vaccine is so new, people should have the right to receive the vaccine if wanted or reject it if they are uncomfortable with it. The Honorable Mentions staff would like to thank all of those who responded to our survey.

Question #1: What are you most excited for once you return to DePaul’s campus?

- 46.7% Spend time with friends and meet new ones
- 40% In-person classes
- 13.3% Being able to explore Chicago

Question #2: In general, how do you feel about the COVID-19 vaccines?

- 90% Safe, effective, and necessary
- 3.2% Indifferent
- 6.7% Mistrust or hesitant

Question #3: What are your feelings on DePaul’s requirement for students to be fully vaccinated before they return to campus for the 2021 Fall Quarter?

- 76.7% Agree
- 16.7% Indifferent
- 6.7% Disagree
Congratulations to the following Honors Program November and June graduates who have contributed so much to the Honors Program community while at DePaul. Through their involvement, they have earned Honors Distinction. We are very proud of these outstanding students who will wear an additional honor cord at Commencement and will receive an extra designation on their transcripts.

As a reminder, there are three steps to earning Honors Distinction:

• Partnership: earning 10 points within the first two years through involvement in the honors community;
• Leadership: assuming a board position on Honors Student Government, an editorial role for Honorable Mentions, an Honors Mentor position, or a student assistant job in the Honors Program office;
• Scholarship: presenting research or creative work at the Honors Student Conference or completing an Honors Senior Thesis.

Congratulations and best of luck in the future!

Deyana Atanasova
Maiwenn Brethenoux
Helena Devens-Ortlieb
Miakoda Frost
Alyssa Isberto
Claire Kaczanowski
Carolyn Kedryna
Tuyet Anh Le
Amelia Modes
Justin Myers
Ryan Napue
Anissa Patterson
Harika Reddy
Megan Salloum
Caroline Schlegel
Sara Shahein
Shashank Srikanth
Mary Takgbajouah
Bhavi Vashi
Chandler Whitney
2021 Honors Program Graduates

Congratulations to the following 2021 Honors Program graduates! It's been a challenging end to your time at DePaul. We are very proud of you! Please keep in touch.

Brianna-Paige Alegbeleye
Melanie Anselmo
Deyana Atanasova
Sierra Bagwell
Maya Baker
Margaret Barbinski
Mariana Bednarek
Nika Bell
Timothy Birmingham
Brandon Bourret
Maiwenn Brethenoux
Brad Brewington
Jennifer Burke
Madison Cairns
Blanca Castillo
Sage Catania
Gina Cioli
Mayela Correa
Hannah Coyle
Julia Cremin
Omar Cruz
Isabel Cueto
Peter Das
Isabella Datillo
Charles (James) Derecskey
Helena Devens-Ortlieb
Sophia Diamantakos
Natalie Dizon
Katie Donovan
Kristen Durkin
Madeline Easton
Kurt Edlund
Emily Einhorn
Megan Evans
Abeer Fatima
Matthew Filicette
Maya Fitzgerald
Elyse Flannery
Carolyn Foster
Sydney Frank
Konstantinos Frentzas
Matthew Friedland
Miakoda Frost
Adelaide Fuller
Emihie Funda
Matt Galvan
Marisa Gelabert
Jacalyn Gisvold
Ljupka Gjorgjevska
Gabrielle Glashagel
Emily Goldstein
Martha Gomez
Kim Goodrich
Clare Gordon
Kaitlyn Grady
Paulina Grzybowicz
Stefanie Haenicke
Patricia Haney
Emily Hartman
Ellie Heinzen
Michael Hellen
Scott Hillhouse
Kelly Ho
Caitlin Hoogsstraten
Hannah Hyman
Daniah Ibrahim
Yousef Ibrahim
Denise Iliev
Danae Ing
Alyssa Isberto
Lexi Jackson
Joseph Jazwinski
Alexis Johnson
Alexis Jordan
Maura Joyce
Claire Kaczanowski
Miki Kainuma
Sarah Kamin
Will Katauskas
Cecilia Kearney
Carolyn Kedrnya
Nicole Kelly
Thomas Kelly
Hayes Kennedy
Tassos Kirkos
Jonathan Knecht
Madison Knorp
Sedona LaMarre
Blaise Lanter
Tuyet Anh Le
Christopher Lee
Jack Li
Mia Lorentsen
Jacob Lukawski
Vera Makagon
Parker Mancino
Marcin Marciniak
Blair Martin
Riley McLaughlin
Mary McManamon
Elena Medeiros
Sydney Milanesi
Dana Miller
Viktor Milosavjevic
Katherine Minch
Amelia Modes
Patrick Mont
Gabriela Morales
Connor Mudd
Justin Myers
Ryan Napue
Phoebe Nerem
Andrew Nunez
Delaney Oakes
Evan Obal
Jacob Ocker
Erin O’Connor
Thoma Panos
Maya Parekh
Isabella Patak
Anissa Patterson
Ella Peterson
Ashley Pezza
Maisy Phillips
Jenna Pizer
Claire Polar
Savannah Preuss
Kayla Quebral
Elena Rangai
Harika Reddy
Hannah Reed
Paul Roach
Margarita Rocha
Cameron Rodriguez
Emma Roese
Lauren Rosenfeld
Hope Rozeved
Elizabeth Ruda
Tess Ryan
Declan Ryan
Jade Ryerson
Sheboy Sak
Alondra Salgado
Megan Salloum
Nathan Sanchez
Kimberly Sanderson
Caroline Schlegel
Anne Scoltock
Miriam Searcy
Zachary Segell
Sara Shahein
Trevor Sheehan
Samuel Simone
Dhruvi Soni
Marianne Soriano
Bethany Sorman
Shashank Srikant
Elizabeth Stanis
Sarah Stolpe
John Stukensen
Gordon Sulejmani
Mary Tarkajouah
Allison Terry
Hana Teslaye
Skyler Thompson
Sampson Traenkle
Morgan Turner
Alana Uriarte
Cameron Van Hare
Trey Vanderstappen
Bhavi Vashi
Claudia Vazquez-Flanigan
Christy Villez
Olivia Wageman
Kellie Wallace
Grace Weber
Chandler Whitney
Elizabeth (Libby) Wickham
Dominika Wojtowicz
Falon Young
Caroline Yü
Mary Zopf
Emily Zukowski
Chicago Quarter Mentors

The following Honors Program students will be Chicago Quarter Mentors for this fall’s Discover and Explore classes. Good luck to them all!

Mitch Barrett, Music
Camila Barrientos, Political Science, Latin-American/Latino Studies
Lauren Berry, Health Sciences – Public Health
Katherine DeZayas, Accountancy
Emma DuBois, Health Sciences – Bioscience
Isabella Eckhardt, Finance
Zoe Espinosa, English
Giorgia Fiorani, International Studies
Delaney Gobel, Public Relations/Advertising
Sofia Gutierrez, Music
Wesley Janicki, International Studies
Grace Lanham, Education
Ariana Mansour, Political Science
Olga Mourelas, Philosophy
Eiman Navaid, LAS – Undeclared
Mara Parker, Economics
Camelia Patron, Theatre – Comedy Arts
Sophia Patton, Psychology
Danielle Ross, Communication & Media
Koko Tamai, Music – Performance
David Taullahu, Psychology
Nina Trifunovic, Health Sciences
Evan Vetter, English
George Zaytchev, Cybersecurity
The Honors Virtual Conference 2021

By: Julia Matuszek

On Friday May 21st, 2021 the Honors Program held its annual Honors Conference, although this year it was done virtually via Zoom. The event began with an introduction as well as breakdown of the day’s schedule by Honors Director, Dr. Jennifer Conrary followed by uplifting remarks from Dr. Guillermo Vasquez de Velasco, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Social Studies.

Following the welcoming remarks, the conference officially began and students presented their thesis projects. The conference was split into two sessions, with three panels within each session. Each panel had a theme that tied together the thesis projects. The themes were: Creative and Philosophical Musings, Gender Matters, Transforming Teaching, The Science Around Us, The History and Politics of Place, and Rethinking and Re-envisioning.

With so many interesting themes, it was hard for audience members to decide where to spend their time. Luckily, the online format allowed audience members to jump around from panel to panel as they wished, so they could listen to all of the presentations that piqued their interest. With twenty-five fascinating presentations to choose from, the decision was not easy!

Each panel was also moderated as a way to keep the students on track with time as well as to allow the audience to ask the presenters questions. Because each student had only fifteen minutes to present their months of research and hard work, there was no short supply of questions, comments, and praise from audience members.

As I jumped around the conference, I was able to learn about a wide variety of topics. From Riley McLaughlin’s presentation titled “In Phases: A Poetry Chapbook Inspired By Ties Between The Moon and My Individual Feminie Experience,” I got to hear a beautiful excerpt from McLaughlin’s chapbook which includes twelve original poems. I even got to learn about economics from Deyana Atanasova’s incredibly fascinating and timely project titled “Venmo: The Fine Line Between Economic and Social Capital.” I was also educated on the HB-1 Visa Program thanks to Shashank Srikanth’s thesis titled “HB-1 Visa Program: A System of Continuous Exploitation and Malpractice.” I can confidently say I walked away from the conference with significantly more knowledge of the world around me than I had when I signed into the Zoom call.

I found a common characteristic among many of the presentations, which was the inclusion of music that related to the project. If you’re on the hunt for some new playlists, make sure to check out the Online Honors Showcase, which can be found on the Honors Blog (dpuhonors.com/honors-conference). There you can find all of the thesis research projects that were presented at the Conference. You can also see other research projects done by fellow Honors students that they completed within their Honors classes this past year.
Congratulations and a big round of applause for all of the participants and Senior Thesis students who contributed to the Honors Virtual Conference this year! You all did an amazing job!

**Thesis Students**

- **Melanie Anselmo**
  The Great Mirror of Male Ego: A Literary Look at Japanese Gay Discourse

- **Deyana Atanasova**
  Venmo: The Fine Line Between Economic and Social Capital

- **Mariana Bednarek**
  Comparing Mental Health of Latinx Immigrant-Origin College Students Before and After COVID-19: An Interpretative Phenomenological Analysis

- **Brad Brewington**
  The Role of the Faculty of the Imagination in Martin Heidegger’s reading of the Kantian Schematism

- **Isabel Cueto**
  Dual Immersion Education: Student Identity and Motivation

- **Maddie Fernandez Laris**
  Quercus Brandegeei’ Barriers to Recruitment in Transplanted Deedlings

- **Maya Fitzgerald**
  Access to Primary Care by Neighborhood in Chicago

- **Mia Frost**
  An Imperfect Superhero: The Potential of Popular Media to Destigmatize

- **Jacalyn Gisvold**
  Existing Outside the Hollywood Vacuum: An Exploration in a Reimagination of Filmmaking

- **Alexis Jackson**
  The Loss of Strength: On the Undesirability of a Singular Good

- **Cecilia Kearney**
  Transformative Justice as an Alternative to Incarceration in Juvenile Justice in Chicago

- **Riley McLaughlin**
  In Phases: A Poetry Chapbook Inspired by Ties Between the Moon and the Feminine Experience

- **MaryJo McManamon**
  The Hospitality Industry Shown from a Multicultural Perspective: Cairo and Istanbul

- **Elena Medeiros**
  Seeds of the Carnation Revolution: Can Students Lead the Fight for Change

- **Amelia Modes**
  A Loving Feeling

- **Justin Myers**
  Alton: A Mississippi River City of Perseverance

- **Erin O’Connor**
  Trauma, Healing, and Liberation in Schools

- **Maya Parekh**
  A Transnational Feminist Comparative Analysis of Midwifery as Anti-colonial Resistance

- **Cam Rodriguez**
  Place and Power: The Impact of Nuclear Energy on Illinois Residents

- **Anne Scoltock**
  Mutual Aid in the Context of 2020’s Concurrent Crises

- **Miriam Searcy**
  Black Women in Music are not Protected

- **Sara Shahein**
  The Effect of Community Engagement and Creativity, Academics, and Learning Theories on Teaching Poetry

- **Shashank Srikanth**
  The Labor Exploitation of H1-B Visa Holders: The Ugly Side of the H1-B Visa Program

- **Tom Sykora**
  High Altitude Ballooning as a Platform for Measuring Ozone Uptake over Agricultural Landscapes

- **Grace Weber**
  Materialist Marriage in the Age of Neoliberalism
Non-Thesis Students

Harper Bechtel
“Oh! I Thought That Was a Girl”: A Look Into the Power of Androdyne in Manga and Anime

Elijah Bennet
The Inequality of Disability Representation in American Films

Zach Cherian
To Be or Not To Be? Neutrality is the Question

Ezra Constante
Breaking Down Barriers: An Analysis of Healthcare Inequality for Transgender Americans

Priscilla DelValle
Demographic Winter’s Effects on Government Policies

Chloe Devens
Dimensions of the Disabled Rights Movement: On the Way to “Nothing About Us Without Us” From Nothing About Us At All

Helena Devens Ortlieb
Multiculturalism Through the Eyes of German Filmmakers, 1974-2017

Olivia English
Should the Minimum Wage Be Increased?

Alyssa Filicicchia
A Centuries-long Struggle: An Honest Look at Homelessness in America

Ava Fischer
Systemic Racism and the Education Disparity: How Racism Caused Educational Inequalities in Chicago

Daryana Garza
English: The Unofficial Official U.S. Language

Alina Huang
Understanding Medical Mistrust: Through Time, the Mind, and the Media

Joseph Jazwinski
From Exoticization to Appreciation

Ariana Kanchuger
Has Standardized Testing Improved Education? Evaluating the Initial Goals of Testing and the Effects on Students and Teachers

Jordan Kurniawan
A Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words: The Use of Contrasting Visual Art Styles to Represent Complex Ideas in the Animated Films Mazinger Z and The Tale of Princess Kaguya

Grace Lanham
Who Polices the Police? The Pressing Need for Police Reform in America

Courtney Maldonado
Liberty and Justice for All (Children)

Gabriella Miles
Food Discrepancies in Black America

Annabella Mique
Put Your Records On: Investigating Today’s Digital Music Industry

Emma Sappington
Arguments for LGBTQ+ Rights: Issues With Essentialism

Emma Sappington
American Revolution: The Sequel?

Allison Scott
Incarceration and Criminal Justice Reform in Chicago

Rebekah Sheih
CRISPR: Without Consent

John Stuckenberg
Elite Framing and Public Opinion on Immigration

Ben Stumpe
Transit for the Masses

Thomas Sykora
High Altitude Balooning as a Platform for Measuring Ozone Uptake Over Agricultural Landscapes

Catalina Torres Reyes
The Tehran Conference

Madyosen Ward
The Effectiveness of The US Prison System

Chandler Whitney
Financing the Taliban

Georgia Wood
Poverty and Nutrition in American: Inequality and Interconnectivity in Multiple Social Realms
What’s So Sentimental About a Floor?

By: Chandler Whitney

Around 8 pm one weekday evening in March of 2020, a flustered resident of Clifton-Fullerton Hall (now known as Ozanam Hall) flung themselves into the first floor lounge saying “Have you seen The Email?”. The Email, that one lone DePaul email, is the one that sent me and other students living on campus into a bizarre and unexpected frenzy to move out and say goodbye to our homes in the span of barely two weeks. I sat there reading The Email, thinking about why I was so horribly sad and why I had to leave the place I called home for three years so abruptly.

From 2017 to 2020, I called the sixth floor of Clifton-Fullerton Hall my home. The first year I was a resident, and the next two I served as a RA. The Clifton sixth floor community spaces themselves have seen me meal prep quite a bit, play many games, clean my fish tank, hang out with friends, and also cry once… or maybe twice. The lounge on the west side of the building most definitely saw me through the most, and was the best spot to peep down at the street when there was chaos or to catch a glimpse of the skyline on a beautiful clear night. Rooms 609, 633, and 613 will forever feel like my first studio apartments, be the places I made some of my best friends, and are the cozy little rooms where I made some of the most important and exciting phone calls home to my mom.

The Honors Program itself was something I kind of scraped my way into, as I was one of those kids in high school who was able to test into AP classes but then was going through some things and didn’t really have the mental capacity to actually do the work all of the time. On paper, my grades were probably rather horrendous compared to what I wished they’d been, but I was still decently involved with student organizations and some other things that somehow showed Nancy and Jennifer that I could ~maybe~ succeed in the program. I hereby thank them again for their glimpse of hope, because the Honors Program has been one of the best parts of my DePaul experience.

My first year in the Honors Program, I went to as many events and HSG meetings as I humanly could (insert Chartwells cheese pizza here). I wanted to experience as much as I could and was really just trying to live it up while adapting to college life. I was the Treasurer of Residence Hall Council, a member of the Residential Education EDGE team, and joined some major-focused organizations like Accounting Club. The Stu cafeteria somehow kept me alive, and I consumed way too much Amy’s frozen pesto tortellini. One of my best friends to this day was one of my two roommates in Clifton Room 609 that year, and the friends I’ve made within the Honors Program in completely unrelated ways are also some of my best ones now.

I loved living on the Honors Floor with my roommates because at the end of every day, I knew there would be someone I could share my highs and lows with back in 609 or even in one of the three community lounges spread out across the floor. This sense of home and community is what drove me to not want to leave for the next two years.

My second year in the program, I decided to get more involved and become the Honors Ambassador Coordinator. I loved doing Ambassador lunch visits and quickly grew to love doing panels around campus also, so this position not only helped me earn Honors Leadership status while pursuing but also helped me develop stronger interpersonal skills and connection to the DePaul community as a whole. My sophomore year was where things really ramped up: I was working as an RA, a Front Desk Assistant at the Office of Multicultural Student Success, the Honors Ambassador Coordinator, and started to do a lot of interviewing for accounting...
Honorable Mentions | Winter 2021

Chandler Whitney in Cortelyou Commons.

I internships. I won RA of the Year in 2019 and truly felt more connected than ever to both the Honors Floor and Honors community overall.

My third and fourth years feel like a blur after how long we’ve been working and studying from home. For the past four quarters of my time at DePaul, I’ve been taking my classes and trying to stay connected with friends from the comforts of my room at home alongside my cats and family. Even as an RA, I feel like I was able to still be friends with my residents and dig my roots even deeper into the Honors Program by recognizing and getting to know even more folks in Honors classes and at HSG meetings or events. Seeing my peers graduate and succeed alongside me has been so rewarding, and I am proud of just how far a lot of us original Clifton 6th Floor residents have come. Seeing the past two years of Honors Floor residents grow and continue in the program has also been unbelievably rewarding - if I was your RA, I hope you know I had an absolute blast getting to know you and know more about what y’all did than you think (jokes, just jokes).

Before I start my adult job full-time in the fall (I’ll be working as a Tax Associate for KPMG, one of the Big 4 public accounting firms!) and become an Honors Program Alum, I’m so happy to take this time to reflect and share my love for the Honors Floor and program with those of you reading this. Now that I’m graduating in just two weeks, I’ve never felt so sentimental about a floor like I do now. Thank you to the Honors Program for being my home and family away from my own for the past four years - no matter how stressful or sad it was in the moment, The Email will never change all of the memories I hold.

A Conversation With Dr. Robin DiAngelo
By: Jade Ryerson

On April 15th, 2021 hundreds of students, faculty, and staff welcomed Dr. Robin DiAngelo to speak at DePaul University. Dr. DiAngelo received her PhD in multicultural education from the University of Washington, Seattle. Her research focus includes whiteness and critical discourse analysis. She is the author of four books including the New York Times bestseller, White Fragility, which analyzes why it is so hard for white people to talk about race and how they benefit from it. Hosted during the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd and just months after the January 6th insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, her discussion of racism and the violence it sows was particularly salient.

The event began with opening remarks and a land acknowledgment from Dr. Cynthia Pickett, an associate professor of psychology and the Associate Vice-Provost for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI). The Provost, Dr. Salma Ghanem, followed and discussed how DePaul’s mission is a call to action. She explained that the University is committed to taking on the hard work of combating racial prejudice openly and honestly and provided an overview of some of DePaul’s current DEI initiatives. Dexter Zollicoffer, the Diversity Advisor of The Theatre School, shared that Dr. DiAngelo’s visit was part of a two-year process of meetings and discussions to recognize and support the desire to combat racism. He then turned the event over to Dr. Valerie Johnson, an associate professor and former department chair of political science, to facilitate the discussion with Dr. DiAngelo.

Using analysis drawn from population statistics and cultural conventions, Dr. DiAngelo demonstrated how white-dominated society effectively shelters white Americans from thinking of themselves in racial terms. She noted that “Whites are not outside of race and are
not innocent of it.” As one of the major speakers on the critical race theory circuit, Dr. DiAngelo is well aware of her own biases and privilege as an educated, white, cisgender woman. When asked about this by an audience member, she expressed that her identity enables her to enter into these conversations with folks who may be even more skeptical and antagonistic toward scholars and speakers of color. As an insider among other white people, Dr. DiAngelo is positioned to reflect and discuss how she has benefited from racism and how other white people benefit from it too.

She emphasized that although everyone has racial bias, “systemic racism happens when one group’s collective racial bias is backed with legal authority and institutional control that transforms it into a far-reaching system that becomes the default of the very society, because it’s built into the foundation of the society and all of its institutions.”

Through a series of stunning graphics and statistics, Dr. DiAngelo illustrated how this bias manifests in the halls of power and among predominantly white decision-makers, such as governors, mayors, political advisors, ground troops, federal judges, police officers, film and television executives, teachers, full-time college professors, and boards of non-profits. She encouraged the audience to sit with the weight of that reality and to imagine the schools and neighborhoods from which those people came.

Dr. DiAngelo also revealed how this “incredibly limited homogenous perspective” is built into cultural definitions of normality and presented “as if it is universal, speaks for and represents everyone, and that it is objective.” Yet, she stressed that institutional racism is not only meaningful in terms of representation, but also oppression and the construction of a racial inferior.

Posing a series of reflection questions, Dr. DiAngelo asked her viewers to consider how racism is deeply encoded in geography and how communities in the United States are self-segregated “from cradle to grave, with no authentic sustained relationships across race, and not with, in particular, not with Black people.” With this in mind, she addressed the resistance that she encounters when she talks to white people about how they benefit from racism. Due to the intense self-segregated environments in which most Americans are raised, she inquired, “How confident can you be as a white person that you are not racist, that the only message you’ve ever received or been impacted by is that all people are equal, that your opinions are informed, and that you know all you need to know on the topic?”

Dr. DiAngelo urged the audience to acknowledge how their implicit biases have been internalized and that “refusal to admit that is not helping.” It is, instead, a form of complicity. She stressed that denial only bolsters the existence of racism in society, from preventing meaningful conversations about race and power from occurring and instead marks “racism” as a dirty word. Dr. DiAngelo explained that the criteria used to judge racism is often based on a “good-bad binary,” instead of a continuum that benefits one group and oppresses others when the first group’s implicit biases are backed with power.

While she recognized that she didn’t personally know anyone in the audience, Dr. DiAngelo finally implored that white viewers—especially those who felt uncomfortable or the urge to push back—suspend their individuality for a moment to grapple with the consequences of their membership in a social group, “the consequences of which are so profound that not only can we predict whether I was going to survive my birth, we could predict how long I’m going to live.”

In closing, Dr. DiAngelo stressed that the “default of this society is racism by every measure across every institution, we reproduce racist outcomes racially unequal outcomes, and as a white person, I live, love, work, play, create anything racist society, in a society which systemic racism is the norm.” By being passive in that society and subscribing to a comfortable status quo, white people reinforce that system of racism. If people are really committed to systemic change, they must first admit that their silence and comfort is complicity and then choose to get uncomfortable.

Following Dr. DiAngelo’s talk, Dr. Valerie Johnson offered some commentary and questions of her own, including reflections on her experiences as an African American woman in academia and at DePaul University. Dr. Johnson then asked Dr. DiAngelo questions from members of the audience. To close out the event, Dr. Johnson welcomed Dr. Ann Russo, the Director of the Women’s Center, to offer closing remarks.
Professor Chernoh Sesay is a Religious Studies professor at DePaul, whose research interests include African American social and intellectual history and the philosophy of history. He teaches Honors classes, including HON 102: *Slavery, Race, and Religion in the United States* this fall. He has graciously provided his thoughts and answered some questions about his experience teaching during a pandemic and about the upcoming changes that DePaul is making.

**After a year of online classes, how has your teaching style changed? Have you adapted to this new form of learning?**

“I was very familiar with D2L. However, I had a bit of a learning curve”

Even while working online, Professor Sesay has not changed his teaching style much. He is “just as enthusiastic in Zoom sessions as [he is] in the physical classroom. Adjusting to online teaching entails learning your strengths as a professor and learning the new tools on D2L. The pandemic required a learning curve (for both professors and students) that we have adjusted to now.”

Part of the excitement of learning comes from being in a physical classroom, says Professor Sesay. Office hours have been an integral part of adjusting to online learning to make sure that each student is engaged and familiar with the material. When in-person classes resume next school year, Professor Sesay intends to continue using his newly learned D2L and Panopto skills in addition to classroom learning.

**How have your expectations of students and their work changed during the pandemic?**

“Seeing students arrive to Zoom sessions from an array of different circumstances reminded me of how their experiences of virtual learning varied widely”

For each student, online learning means something different. In class, Professor Sesay recognized this and has held great sympathy for DePaul undergraduate students. There are so many uncertainties that came from the COVID-19 pandemic, and online learning was one of them. Because of this, Professor Sesay has been very accommodating for his students; however, this opportunity has also allowed students to gain new strengths and adapt to their environment.
Are you going to miss any aspects of online learning? Is it more beneficial/conducive to your teaching style online?

“I won’t miss always teaching from home.”

Working from home has had some perks for Professor Sesay. He will “miss being able to teach by going the 30 seconds from [his] bedroom to [his] teaching area”. However, teaching from Zoom has been strange in many ways and many are eager to return to in-person learning.

Professor Sesay was one of many professors to require attendance during the Zoom year, but not require cameras to be on at all times. While this took some getting used to, it allows the students to be more comfortable in their own learning environment.

How do you anticipate returning to in-person classes in the fall? How will you adjust your teaching style for this?

“Going back to a populated campus will be simultaneously exhilarating, anxiety-inducing, and just peculiar”

Although many of us are eager to be getting back on campus in fall, it won’t come without its worries. Sesay intends to dedicate the first portion of returning to classes to discussing with the students their thoughts and concerns about returning to campus. Because this past year has been so odd for everyone, it is important now, more than ever, to check in on each other and make sure everyone is adjusting to the new changes in their lives as “This will help to build trust and allay some of the strangeness that will be hanging in the air (serious pun intended). This conversation, along with that of the systems of colonialism, enslavement, and racism, are so important during these times.”

Is there any advice you have for students upon returning to in-person scheduling?

“Yes, we will go immediately from not being on campus to being on campus”

Returning to campus will not be an easy process, according to Professor Sesay. This immediate change will require some adjustment as we all have to relearn how to coexist in a small space again. Some people have not been in close proximity with others for over a year now, so these drastic changes will not be easy for everyone. “Despite the overreaching trauma that the COVID pandemic has visited upon us and despite its raging spread in other areas of the world, all of us will be interacting with others who have experienced the pandemic in ways different from ourselves,” Professor Sesay says. “This period of adaptation, uncertainty, and hopefulness will be best battled together.”
Transitioning from high school to college during a global pandemic and in a remote setting was a challenge of its own, but I was determined to make the most of it. That meant continuing my journalism aspirations and getting involved early. When scrolling through Instagram one day around two weeks into the fall quarter, I stumbled upon my chance to do so with the DePaul chapter of the Her Campus publication.

“For women, by women” was the phrase that sold me. It screamed community, which was important to me as a freshman starting college remotely, and as a minority -- a Muslim woman of color. I looked through Her Campus’s social media page and noticed their emphasis on DEI -- diversity, equity, and inclusion -- and it wasn’t just performative -- the members of the organization were a direct representation. Women of different races, ethnicities, and religious backgrounds were representative of the club. Given the events over the summer and the important conversation raised about DEI initiatives throughout different organizations and in academic settings, it was refreshing and comforting to see these played out in Her Campus.

Her Campus members divide themselves into different “team weeks,” a red and blue team, each writing every other week to ensure variety and consistency, as well as leeway and comfort in a stress-free and spaced-out environment for the writers. I placed myself onto the red team and submitted articles every two weeks, receiving feedback on areas of improvement and with each article, growing my scope and journalism potential.

The great thing about Her Campus is the Buzzfeed-style ability to write about anything. There is no limit or end to ideas, no taboo topics or areas to stay away from. It’s a free-for-all, which sounds wonderful, but can be challenging. I am not creative enough to think of topics on my own and find it easy to choose from a list or have an assignment given to me. Her Campus, however, challenged me to think of new ideas to write about every two weeks. It helped me step out of my comfort zone and find my inspiration.

Near winter quarter, the organization sent out applications to be on next year’s e-board. I decided to take the leap and apply for the position of Editor. I felt comfortable, noticing my improvement from the beginning of the quarter, and felt that the leap was small yet appropriate for my journalism career. My confidence was reciprocated when I was accepted, and I have been training for my upcoming position during this past quarter.

Also a freshman, Maryann Ress had a similar experience to me regarding the awkward transition in a remote setting but reflected on how Her Campus helped her this past year, saying “Not only was I given a creative outlet and a chance to take on a leadership position as a Social Media Director of Her Campus, I was still able to have an amazing experience and meet people with the same interests as me.”

Current Campus Correspondent Natalie Rohman, a senior graduating this year, also reflected on her time with Her Campus while attending DePaul, saying “Her Campus has allowed me to find community and foster my passion to write, as well as, be able to uplift diverse voices in a group of strong and talented women!”

Her Campus holds meetings almost every Thursday. Meetings include general body meetings for personal and magazine-related check-ins, collaborations with other clubs and chapters, such as the Friendsgiving with HerCampus at UIC, Zeta Phi Eta game night, collaboration with Neuro Club, and the UCWBL, and many others throughout the year. The meetings are always something fun, new, and exciting, which has been especially helpful and necessary in a remote setting.

For more information, go to: https://www.hercampus.com/school/depaul
https://www.instagram.com/hercampusdepaul/
How To Get Stanford On Your Resume

By: Peregrin Sadler

When your academic advisor suggests to you that you should go and talk to some of your professors, they really mean you should go and talk to some of your professors. I know this is on the edge of blasphemy, but just hear me out.

I reached out to one of my Computer Science professors, Amber Settle, who was not only happy to talk to me for fifteen minutes, but was happy to talk to me for fifteen minutes. Hearing that one of her students was not only looking for advice on networking, job opportunities, etc. from her, but also the fact that I was interested in pursuing a career in academia, she was very excited to talk to me and to give me some pointers.

Not only have I stayed in touch with Amber since, but she ended up linking me to an opportunity at Stanford University (yes, that Stanford University) where I could teach the first half of Stanford’s course on Python to people from all around the world. If this sounds like an opportunity that is too perfect to be on any resume, but my resume, you’d be correct.

As this chapter of my life ends, my next chapter will begin as a CDM Student Ambassador, a role that I was recommended for by: you guessed it... Amber! Talking to her was the best decision I have made in the last half year. I have gone from having no education, no contacts, no experience, to well-educated, multiple contacts, and multiple jobs in one year. I have gone from rags to riches because I talked to someone.

And to think that so many people just... don’t. You don’t have to be a stand-out student, although it couldn’t hurt. You just have to go to one of your professors you like and show them that you are interested and that you are trying. So many people I know have no idea where to begin. This is it. Reach out to a professor and ask them what it’s like to work in their industry, and ask if they have any tips for you on how to get started.

The worst case scenario is that you never hear from them again. Otherwise, you have a contact you can always reach out to. And possibly someone who, when they hear about an opportunity, might think of you for it. You might not get a gig at Stanford. You’ll never know unless you ask.
At this stage of the pandemic, there is a mad rush to get vaccinated. While vaccine roll-out has been less than ideal in our current situation, the United States has made the vaccine readily available for any adult who wishes to be vaccinated. DePaul is doing a similar distribution for all current students. But, is it really necessary?

I think we can all agree that getting vaccinated is a step towards lessening the pandemic and returning to the way things were pre-COVID. DePaul is requiring that all returning students who are returning to campus in the fall show proof of vaccination, or they are not allowed to take in-person classes. Many students that I have spoken to so far have already been vaccinated at least once (myself included, as seen through the picture). However, each day, less and less people in the United States are becoming vaccinated. If this trend stops, herd immunity will never be reached within the country. But are people really thinking about this trend?

Over the course of vaccinations, there have been people who disagree with the idea of vaccines and refuse to either vaccinate themselves or their children. However, we have never needed vaccines to fight a pandemic before.

If DePaul is requiring that each student get vaccinated before returning to campus, that definitely creates a safer environment for those returning to school. Will it eliminate the need for masks in common areas? DePaul is not part of a college town, and every Lincoln Park resident cannot be required to be vaccinated. Will this affect our vaccination and subsequent safety plans for the fall?

In order to foster a safe environment for each DePaul faculty member and student, having everyone show proof of vaccination is a good first step in the right direction. So far, there have been no long-term effects of the vaccine, so it seems that everyone who is eligible should be able to be inoculated. That being said, there are always people who are going to challenge this idea and choose to take a different path. Stay safe!
Top 5 Must-Watch Summer 2021 Blockbusters

By: Julia Matuszek

When summer rolls around there are a few things that are certain such as warm weather, fireworks, and of course summer blockbusters. While theatres have opened with limited occupancy, the idea of going to a theatre is still too intimidating for many. Because of this, here are some movies coming out this summer to keep an eye out for that you can see either in theatres or in the comfort of your own home.

1. **In The Heights** (2021)

   Following the success of *Hamilton*’s transition from stage to the big screen, comes another one of Lin Manuel-Miranda’s musicals. This time it is *In The Heights* which also won Miranda a Best Musical Tony in 2008. The story follows bodega owner Usnavi, played by Anthony Ramos. He is planning to leave Washington Heights and retire in the Dominican Republic after inheriting money from his Grandma. But as he prepares to leave, he finds leaving his neighborhood difficult as the people there have become his family. This film should be a great movie to start off your summer watching because it’s vibrant, lively, and has an amazing soundtrack that you can sing along to all summer long.

   The film is being released on June 11th simultaneously in theatres and on HBOMax.

2. **Summer of Soul (...Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)** (2021)

   Every good list of movies includes a documentary, and this list is no exception! After winning two awards at the 2021 Sundance Film Festival and getting rave reviews, this film has been hotly anticipated by many. This documentary is compiled of archival footage as well as interviews by music legends such as Stevie Wonder, Nina Simone, and B.B. King. The film aims to educate audiences on the iconic and impactful 1969 Harlem Cultural Festival which has been dubbed by many as “The Black Woodstock.” While the festival featured amazing music, it was so much more than just a music festival as it was a celebration of African-American culture. With unseen archival footage, this movie is a must-see for any history fanatic or music fan.

   The film debuts on July 2nd simultaneously in theatres and on Hulu.

3. **Black Widow** (2021)

   Of the six original Avengers, each has gotten their stand-alone film besides Hawkeye and Black Widow, but Black Widow’s time has finally come (and Hawkeye is getting his own stand-alone show this summer as well!). This film finally gives Marvel fans what they’ve been patiently waiting for throughout the years: a deeper and better understanding of Black Widow, played by Scarlett Johansson. The film is set in between *Captain America: Civil War* (2016) and *Avengers: Infinity War* (2018) and follows Black Widow as she is forced to face her past and take care of some unfinished business. If the trailer is any indication, I’m positive this film will deliver on its promises of being action-filed, which any Marvel fan will not want to miss.

   The film comes out on July 9th simultaneously in theatres and on Disney+ (with a $30 Rental Charge for Premier Access).
Space Jam: A New Legacy (2021)
Lebron James is following in Michael Jordan’s footsteps and stepping into the world of the Looney Tunes characters as he stars in the long-awaited sequel to Space Jam (1996). In this movie, Lebron’s son gets sucked into and transported to the Server-verse. Lebron follows him and learns that the only way to save his son is to beat the Goon Squad in a game of basketball. In order to lessen his chances of success, Lebron is teamed up with the underdog team of the Looney Tunes characters. With a combination of both live-action and animation as well as some comedy and sports sprinkled into the mix, this movie is sure to be a memorable watch, especially if you’re a fan of the original film.

The film is being released on July 16th simultaneously in theatres and on HBOMax.

CODA (2021)
CODA is another Sundance Festival film that made headlines after breaking records for being the largest purchase at $25 million in Sundance history. It’s a must-watch for any film buff. CODA stands for Child of Deaf Adults. Emilia Jones plays Ruby, who is not only a CODA, but she is the only hearing person in her immediate family. While her family relies on her a lot, she slowly discovers her love and talent for singing, and applies to a music school. This leads to a conflict for Ruby of choosing between helping her family or chasing her dreams. A history-making purchase price, rave reviews, and a fascinating plot makes me think that this movie will be a hot topic when released.

The film starts on August 13th simultaneously in theatres and on Apple TV+.

Honors Alumni Feature: Sarah Magnuson
By: Ben Stumpe

Describe your experience and/or favorite memories as a student of the DePaul Honors Program. What activities were you involved with in the Honors Program?

“I wish I could go back and lean in even more to the Honors Program. I wish I could make it even more of a presence in my life.”

Sarah Magnuson knew the DePaul Honors Program was a perfect fit for her right from the beginning of freshman year. She enjoyed having a built-in community at DePaul with students who shared many of the same academic interests and values as her. The Honors Program also provided many events and opportunities for her to get acquainted with Honors Student Government members, faculty, and the city of Chicago.

Sarah eventually became an Honors Program Mentor for comedy and theatre students. At first, she thought of herself as a sheltered and naive person, but the small group and orientation meetings with her mentees allowed her to open up more. Sarah says that she was closest with the friends and mentees she met in the Honors Program and still reconnects with them today.
Sarah hit the ground running freshman year with the Honors Discover Chicago class titled “Poverty Amidst Plenty” which gave her a new perspective on city planning and sustainability. At first, she was afraid this class was not the right fit for her, but it turned out to dramatically mold her journey going forward in life. When she entered as an undergraduate student at DePaul she was an English major, and then added a major in Sociology because of the Poverty Amidst Plenty course. This class would eventually be the reason she decided to study Public Service Management with a concentration in City Planning and Urban Development in graduate school at DePaul.

What is your current occupation and have you found it more or less difficult to work during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Within the College of Education, Sarah works in development where she collaborates with donors to bring in scholarships and does technical and communications writing. Many of the organization pieces that she learned while at grad school such as how to do SWOT analysis and strategic planning have been integral in her current occupation. The pandemic has definitely made it more difficult for her work. Sarah says it is much easier to run into her boss’s office to ask or answer questions instead of sending emails remotely. She misses seeing her coworkers in-person and talking with the professors in the hallways of the department. Luckily, she gets to reconnect with one of her favorite coworkers every now and then at a local dog park.

What type of comedy do you gravitate to the most: improv, sketch comedy, stand-up, or something else? Could you talk more about the creative projects you are working on right now?

“I love giving other people platforms. It is very satisfying.”

Since the pandemic has shuttered the performing arts community, Sarah has written grants for some of her favorite theatres so they can receive adequate funding to stay in business. In her spare time, Sarah produces comedy with her friends. She is currently producing The Feel Good Hour which is a one-hour comedy showcase performed in her friend’s garage. This post-pandemic show gives comedians a space to perform in a time where it has become close to impossible to find a venue for performing.

In graduate school, Sarah cut her teeth at improv comedy, but she found herself to be better at writing sketches based on improv; she is very formulaic and organized when it comes to creating comedy. She also loves the production side of comedy and finds it very fulfilling to give other comedians opportunities to perform.

Could you tell us a little bit about your background such as where you grew up, where you are now, and about your dog Rodeo?

Sarah is originally from Rockford, Illinois, but she knew she wanted to be in a city for college. She wanted to live the adult life in the city and DePaul was perfect for that. Chicago, with its many opportunities in comedy, is now her new home. While attending graduate school at DePaul, her normal day would consist of working for the College of Education from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., attending classes from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and then catching an improv show late at night. Because of this busy and exciting schedule, she is now very organized and can juggle many different hobbies and interests.

This past year, Sarah adopted a Corgi puppy named Rodeo who is a ball of energy and chaos. Sarah says that taking care of Rodeo has been the hardest thing she has ever done; Rodeo likes attention!
The Honors Student Government Social Committee hosted the Demon Drawing Event on Friday, May 7 after the HSG meeting. During this event, students were asked to print one of the spring-themed coloring sheets that was emailed to them earlier in the week and color it! Check out their colorful pictures that include flowers, butterflies, and rainbows!

Professor Cathy Elias’ HON 205 Interdisciplinary Arts class decided to dress up in 1960s attire for their last day of in-person instruction on Wednesday, June 2. In this course, students study the music, the lyrics, and the films of the Beatles and the social climate of the 1960s.
Dislcaimer: the italicized lines are from the song “Sail On” by Ryn Weaver which acted as a source of inspiration for this article.

Sail on, sail on, sail on, sail on, sail on.

With different waves of life, I envision different future selves. Do you do this too? Historically, I shy away from telling people all of the various things I have wanted to do. I do not want people to think that I am without a compass. But the truth is that I am in an ocean – sailing across the sea, seemingly directionless until I encounter an opportunity to anchor.

What I am going to share with you is very personal. Our computers may see this as ones and zeros, but I ask you to read between the lines. In my waters, do you recognize your reflection?

Childhood:

I took your hand and
And held it in my clutch
But it was never mine to hold

My childhood was full of dreams – dreams of all different shapes and sizes.
Age 5: a future artist. I mean, you should have seen the gallery on my family’s refrigerator.
Age 8: an aspiring Olympic diver. However, this future was derailed when I realized that I was afraid of heights.
Age 11: a to-be lawyer. My reasoning? I would have a great shoe collection.
Assorted ages: I dreamt of being an actress, an opera singer, a sci-fi book author, a photographer, a geneticist, a heart surgeon, a statistician, and a (substitute) math teacher.

Amidst my range of aspirations, can you spot any pattern? There are two things which consistently captivated me: science and art. In themselves, the outlines of science and art scarcely resemble one another. It is only when we look more closely, soak in the full force of their floods, that we realize they are composed of the same molecules. Water is water, whether in liquid, solid, or gaseous state. However, science and art are often seen in dichotomy. Many times, I have been asked, “How can you pursue both science and art?” In response, I slowly but surely attempted to evaporate pieces of myself. Science or art? As a sailor, I felt I had to follow one current.

Just Before College:

Well sail on
Sail on, ‘til you’re gone
And then some
With all your broken pieces
All of my applications were in place. I would study STEM and pursue a pre-med track. However, I threw in one application for an Acting BFA just to see what would happen. And where was that application to? DePaul University. While most people applied to over a dozen conservatories, I only really only applied to one. All of my eggs were in one basket. Statistically speaking, this was a terrible strategy. But DePaul University had (and has) an outstanding conservatory for acting. If I was going to let go of science to pursue acting, this was the place to do so.

After receiving notice of a callback, I made the trek out to Chicago. I felt like I was in The Hunger Games. An actress or a scientist. Only one would walk out of Chicago alive.

For years, even complete strangers had told me that I belonged on the stage. Did I belong on the stage?

When it was time for the interview portion of the callback. The faculty asked me one question: “Why theatre?”

This was a question which I could not answer. During my interview, I think I actually talked about my interest in STEM. Sure, I had a passion for theatre, but I had no place there. I have nothing but good things to say about DePaul’s Theatre School. My brief experience there was truly phenomenal but acting simply wasn’t my sole purpose. In that boat, I was not anchored - the sea was too large, the current too strong. A drive deep within me sang to swim in a different direction.

College:

Shatter the light, and let it go
Whatever time it’ll take to break it
Burning out bright
And sounding the sirens

It’s been over a year since I auditioned for The Theatre School. If it had not been for the callback, I would have never toured DePaul. I am now finishing up my first year as a Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience major. Acting to Neuroscience. Talk about a drift!

In full honesty, I spent my first quarter at DePaul considering changing my major. Art was absent and, with that, I felt incomplete. I cannot convey to you how painful it was to have true passion for something and not pursue it. But then I found art in the rocks, the sand, and in the tides of the STEM sea. There is a lot of pressure to pursue passion. However, I have come to the conclusion that as long as I remain committed to exploration, passion will flow. After all, every ocean is connected by the same water.

I have wanted to be so many things. Let me correct my phrasing: I’ve wanted to conform to so many things. By tying myself to future selves, I built my goals to sink – but, like a sailor, I am learning to follow the current. This only works because I am willing to explore new seas… and let myself experience a few shipwrecks. In letting go of a future self, I finally found my current self.

Will you join me on the voyage?

Sail on, sail on, sail on, sail on, sail on
“Unspoken Truths”
By: Liz Bazzoli

Z Z Z
purr...

WILL HE EVER KNOW
HOW MUCH I LOVE HIM?

Z Z Z

MEOW.

Z Z Z
Quarantine Walks
By: Julia Matuszek

During the start of quarantine, as a way to distract myself as well as relax I went on a lot of quarantine walks with my mom. Missing a creative outlet, I brought along a disposable camera on some of these excursions. I got the pictures developed a year later, and here are some of my favorite snaps!
“Let us live together in great charity and friendliness.”

- St. Vincent DePaul