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[academics.depaul.edu/honors](http://academics.depaul.edu/honors)

Editing: Madeline Crozier
John Fischer
Cover Photograph: Olivia Kuhn
Advising: Jennifer Kosco
Thank you. To each and every one of you, students, faculty, and staff, who have made my time in Honors Student Government a memorable, impactful, and meaningful experience, thank you. Together, we have worked to answer this year’s Honors Program theme of “What must be done?”, bringing together a collective effort to mobilize Honors students to fulfill their capacities as the capable, intelligent, and forward-thinking leaders they are meant to be. We have actualized changes such as the abolishment of the secret vote in Student Government Association, providing for greater student voice in referendum. We have had tough discussions about race, gender equality, and abortion, discussions I hope will one day actualize even greater changes in our society as we become leaders in the next generation of hopeful, inquisitive, and bright makers of change.

I am inspired by the lessons you all have worked together to create, and I think it’s important to note how much we’ve accomplished. But though my presidency may be over, the work is not finished. For the next leaders of Honors students, know that providing a framework for future generations of students is an extremely rewarding task. Working on projects, like rebranding Honors Student Government, and providing consistent programming is a great way to get connected to a team and to the greater community. But with the Vincentian question in mind, being involved and raising issues is to me, as the president of a student-facing organization, the highest responsibility of a student leader. Never take this responsibility lightly, for real change occurs on countless, small stages such as the platform Honors Student Government provides.

Finally, never forget to support each other. Without the excellent and talented team of inspiring board members, I would never have been able to achieve the visions I had for Honors Student Government. This is a lesson which many students will learn later in life: supporting each other requires a willingness to support, but also a willingness to trust, and be supported by others.

Thank you for your support, consideration, volunteering hours, and hard work! I wish you all the best of luck, and look forward to seeing where you all take it from here!

Congratulations to the new Honors Student Government officers for the 2017 – 2018 academic year. HSG elections took place on Friday, May 19th.

President: Nick Gricus
Vice President: Maciej Piwowarczyk
Treasurer: Andrew Kreuger
SGA Liaison: Paul Stromberg
Communications Director: Sophie Mazurek
Academic Representatives: Emma Nippe, Evan Sully
Service Committee Co-chairs: Maiwenn Brethenoux, Judy Eng
Social Committee Chair: Cristina Cazares
Newsletter Editor: Madeline Crozier
Honors Program students deepened their familiarity with the Vincentian question this academic year because it served as the program’s 2016-2017 theme. “What must be done?” reminds us that social action and awareness are our responsibilities. The question is a call to avoid the complacency that too often falls over us, especially as we juggle our everyday responsibilities in the bubble of college life.

On Friday, April 21st, Sister Helen Prejean spoke to Honors Program students and traced her own journey from complacency to activism. The activist’s appearance at DePaul coincided with Springboard Theater Company’s production of Dead Man Walking, a theatrical adaptation of Prejean’s memoir. Her appearance was especially timely for Honors Program freshmen, who read Dead Man Walking before arriving at DePaul last summer.

Sister Helen looked back on her experience writing River of Fire, a spiritual memoir she described as the “prequel” to Dead Man Walking. Those familiar with the latter book know her as a fierce activist for justice, but this, she revealed, was not always the case: “We’re nuns; we’re not social workers,” Prejean said of her initial view of activism.

Sister Helen ascribes her early complacency to a life shielded from firsthand knowledge of poverty. “And guess why I could say that?” she asked Honors students. “Because I grew up in a position of privilege. Privilege insulates you from the suffering of other people.” The nun’s early attitude also reflected the attitude of the Catholic Church at the time. The Church of the early 1960s encouraged separation from the wider world for nuns. But the Second Vatican Council challenged women of holy orders to work in and engage with the world. “Nobody took Vatican II more seriously than the women of the Catholic Church,” Sister Helen noted. “After Vatican II, we really got to be free-range…to go where the needs were.”

This institutional change precipitated an inward change in Sister Helen. She first felt called to focus on social justice when listening to a fellow nun during a spiritual retreat: “When I heard this line, it changed the spiritual trajectory of my life: ‘Jesus preached good news to the poor. Integral to the good news that Jesus preached was that poverty was not part of God’s plan, that they could be poor no longer and stand up; it was part of their dignity.’” Sister Helen shifted her work from the suburbs to the New Orleans housing project where she would live for four years, and was quickly divested of all-too-common misconceptions about urban poverty. Her work in New Orleans opened her eyes to the numerous factors—poor educational opportunities, lack of resources or choice—which make poverty so cyclical and so crushing. “You wait when you’re poor. You don’t get things done. People look down on you…I just kept thanking God for waking me up. I had so much to learn.”
In Deeds and Words: Sister Helen Prejean’s Ministry Against the Death Penalty

By Madeline Crozier

St. Vincent de Paul, our university’s namesake saint, is the patron of volunteers, hospitals, and charities. Until his death in 1680, he endeavored to serve those in need and preserve each individual’s dignity, which inspired the Vincentian identity of service, fellowship, and community.

Sister Helen Prejean, who began her prison ministry in 1981, says that nuns owe a special gratitude to him. She told the Chicago Catholic, “St. Vincent de Paul found a way to get the nuns out of the convent and into the streets to serve the poor. He did that in 1610 and paved the way for other religious orders.”

This is one reason why Sister Helen chose to donate her papers to DePaul University in December 2010. She said, “I can’t think of a more appropriate place to archive the records of my life’s work than DePaul, as my work has so closely aligned with the university’s mission that is guided by its patron St. Vincent de Paul’s teachings on charity and social justice. I was impressed by the diversity of DePaul’s student body, and the commitment to service and to the poor by academic departments throughout the university.”

Sister Helen is also connected to DePaul University through her past work with the College of Law’s Center for Justice in Capital Cases (CJCC), which shares her mission against the death penalty and death of innocent persons.

The archives collection includes many original letters to and from Death Row inmates and governors, personal journals and notes, speeches, photographs, memorabilia, and artifacts. It also includes drafts, manuscripts, and edited versions of her two books, Dead Man Walking (1993) and The Death of Innocents (2004), the former of the two destined to be adapted into an award-winning movie, play, and opera. Her compassionate work with Death Row inmates is widely considered to have shifted the national conversation on the death penalty as she humanized and gave dignity to those with whom she spoke and worked.

The scope of the collection is vast in both depth and breadth, weaving together a historical and contemporary account of the death penalty with Sister Helen’s personal development as an activist, advocate, and author. Through sharing these papers, Sister Helen graciously opens her world to us, as students, citizens, and learners, as if inviting us onto her porch with a welcoming smile. Not only does she share the private writings and correspondences themselves, but also the unspoken elements of these documents, the character and spirit they carry, from doubt to strength within. Sister Helen’s work as a whole calls attention to social justice issues, especially their intersection with prison policy and the death penalty. The collection presents the artifacts as they are and lets students make connections between them, coming to their own conclusions about modern social justice issues, the state of society, and perhaps the kind of person they want to be.

Thank you, Sister Helen, for your past and recent time at DePaul University, and for the difference that it will (and it certainly has) made.

“In Deeds and Words: St. Helen Prejean’s Ministry Against the Death Penalty” represents an exhibit the DePaul Special Collections and Archives Department displayed from May 2012 through January 2013. St. Helen Prejean’s papers are available in DePaul’s Special Collections and Archives Department Reading Room at the John Richardson Library, Rm. 314. For more information about the collection, as well as the department’s other archives and services, visit the department or the “Special Collections” tab on the library’s home page at https://library.depaul.edu.
For months, we all followed along as Doug Long, Director of the Office of the First-Year Programs, led an interpretation of the novel *Dead Man Walking*—last summer’s mandatory reading for my fellow Honors freshmen and I. Since the end of October, Springboard Theater Company, “a playground for the theatrical world,” has been a subject of conversation in the Honors community for a similar reason.

The reason? Playwright/actor Tim Robbins’ interpretation of the book—a manuscript brought about by Sister Helen’s persuasive letters to the playwright. Robbins condensed the novel to adapt it to the stage; besides names, he also changed a few key facts to provide a better flow. For instance, in the book, Eddie Sonnier, the brother of Elmo Patrick Sonnier, perpetrated the crime for which his brother was to be executed—that of murdering David LeBlanc and Loretta Bourque. In the play, however, Matthew Poncelet (played by Christian Davis), a combination of Patrick Sonnier and another condemned man, Robert Willie, does admit to the murder of one of his two supposed victims.

Robbins does this in order to provide the audience with an escape from the guilt that could come from witnessing the sentencing of an innocent man, as well as to provide spectators with an opportunity to sympathize with the victims’ parents, whose story is as just as important as the rest. In fact, in the memoir, the play, and in both discussions Sister Helen attended in the third week of April, she relayed her regrets for not having contacted and supported the victims’ families in the case of Elmo Sonnier. In the play, Robbins introduces the victims, here Hope Percy and Walter Delacroix. And so the audience is given a balanced story, with lessons from both sides.

However, a script was not all that the cast used to delve into the world of the memoir, which discussed the socioeconomic inequalities of the criminal justice system (not all could afford a good lawyer) and the cruelty and potential needlessness of the death penalty. In point of fact, Jeanne Williams, Coordinator of Academic Services at the Theatre School (who played Sister Helen), shared how “insightful” and “moving” just half a box of Sister Helen’s DePaul-based archives are. Remembering the time she spent poring over the letters that Patrick Sonnier, a man on death row for whom Sister Helen becomes the spiritual advisor and life defender in the memoir, Williams expressed her “surprise at the accessibility of them.” As a matter of fact, DePaul’s Special Collections are readily accessible to all members of the community. Williams also told the audience in the post-show discussion that was held after the first performance how “amazing” the “wealth” of the letters seemed to her. Long himself remembered “the cast and crew[s] emotional couple of days poring through the materials.”

Thankfully, those of us who have yet to go through one of the hundreds of boxes of archives have had their essences brought to us through not only the story recounted in the memoir, but also through the performances of the actors on stage who, through their experience and time, became their characters. In addition to the ghostly visual effects and hauntingly fitting notes, one can fully appreciate the difficulty of the trials faced by the people portrayed on stage. After all, as Sister Helen herself says: “Sociology grounds you and brings you into society and what really happens to real people.” In fact, perhaps both the play itself and its place—the Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church—gave more weight and solemnity to the touching performances. Some audience members were moved to tears, wrought with emotion from the untimely deaths, Poncelet’s remorse, and the enduring afflictions of the survivors.

The mission of Springboard Theater Company, founded by DePaul Honors Program students Peter Bucci and Gabe Reiss, is to “create an original, inclusive, and extremely accessible theater environment for all who seek it,” according to its website. Springboard aims to “bring opportunity to up-and-coming actors, directors, writers and members of the DePaul and Lincoln Park communities,” focusing on a commitment to allowing students and faculty to work side-by-side in mutually beneficial and educational relationships. To learn more about the “playground for all who want to explore all facets the theatrical world has to offer,” please visit springboardtheater.com.
At this year’s Honors Senior Gala on Saturday, May 13th, graduating Honors Program seniors were celebrated for their accomplishments, achievements, and academic excellence. Each student was recognized individually, with their names and future plans being announced as they walked across the stage to receive a certificate, gift, and gold Honor cord to wear at graduation. After hearing from keynote speaker Associate Provost for Academic Programs & Faculty/Associate Professor Lucy Rinehart, and Honors Program Director Rose Spalding, Associate Director Nancy Grossman, Assistant Director Jennifer Kosco, and Program Assistant Emma Rubenstein, a new tradition was added to this year’s event — two graduating seniors gave speeches. The student speakers selected for the 2017 Senior Gala were Taylor Gillen, Digital Cinema, and Molly Murray, Communication Studies. You can read their speeches and see photos from the Gala below and on the following pages.
To my fellow students and Honors Program staff, I want to thank you for helping shape me into the person I am today. I feel that the sentiment is shared with many others in the room.

From day one, the Honors community helped ensure the transition to college life was smooth and simple. I lived on the Honors floor in Seton Hall freshman year. We all grew close—we shared the same classes, we shared the same living space—but even so, I knew numerous Honors students in other residence halls around campus. I remember that we would sometimes get together and study on weeknights. Because of the tight-knit community, most of us were in the same classes together. The first day I walked in to my Honors classes, even my last one, I already knew almost every student there. It was even students in the Honors community that helped me realize my true passion and switch my major from sociology to digital cinema.

While this was happening, the Honors community pushed me to continue analyzing things with a different lens. I soon realized the importance of having an education that was multifaceted. While studying digital cinema, I continued taking Honors classes, sociology and German classes. Though it’s important to specialize and learn as much as you can in your field, it’s also important to facilitate an education in critical reading, writing, and research. That’s what the Honors program challenged me to do, and it helped shape me into who I am now. The skills and attributes they enhance are equally important in the professional world as the technical knowledge you gain in your major classes. I know because I’ve worked with some that don’t have those critical skills, and unfortunately, it shows.

I joined the Honors Student Government board my sophomore year. I served on it for two years, and it only further strengthened a sense of community. Because I took part in CDM’s L.A. Quarter my senior year and then graduated one quarter early, I didn’t serve on it this year. However, I’ve worked with some of the people on the current HSG board, and I know for certain that they are doing a fantastic job.

Some students have a late start, whether it is declaring their major, becoming active in the community, or branching out to different parts of the city. A late start doesn’t mean it’s too late to begin. Don’t let worry or hypotheticals get in the way of reaching where you want to see yourself, whether it’s at the end of the quarter, at the end of the year or at the end of college. At first I felt that, but my peers encouraged me to act otherwise. That fear can immobilize you if you let it. When I’ve felt that way, one person that has inspired me is my girlfriend Michelle. We met on the Honors floor, and have been together ever since.

I now work with a chef who spreads positivity and a sense of gratitude and has a professional relationship based on reciprocity. I wasn’t given a desk and an insurance plan, but I was given equipment and a vision for creation. I had strayed from my creative side for a while, and I decided to rekindle it. The people at DePaul gave me the moral and professional guidance to know where to look for a job that serves me well, and without them, I might have searched in the wrong places.

Thank you to everyone that helped me along the way, whether it was the Honors staff, SCA professors, peers, or friends from other communities. You helped shape me into the person I am today, and I want to express my gratitude to you. I wish you luck in your journey.
Anna Ackermann
Emily Adams
Michelle Aelion
Michelle Alcazar
Beatrice Aldrich
Farha Ali
Erin Anderson
Vasily Andreev
Javier Andujar
Catherine Arevalo
Anna Bailey
Noah Barth
Rachel Batshon
Elena Becerril
Emily Becker
Meredith Bennett-Swanson
Viktorija Bieksaite
Brandon Bogard
Alexandria Boutros
Alex Boyd
Jane Bradley
Sean Brogan
Emilie Bruyere
Joiya Bryant
Bianca Burns
Philip Burns
Matthew Cabel
Murray Campbell
Mitchell Carlstrom
Marisa Castillo
Sarah Catalano
Seorin Chae
Cassandra Chan
Dylan Cheng
Marie Christophell
Marcus Cirone
Dylan Clair
Graciela Covarrubias
Abby Creek
Matthew Crisp
Thomas Cushing
Mia Dal Santo
Remy Dalloul
Clarissa Dallman
Ann Di Paola
Zoya Din
Erica Dix
Erin Donnelly
Elizabeth Donovan
Erin Donovan
Devan Eager
Elizabeth Ebert
Megan Ellinger
Bianna Escarda

Laraib Fatima
Sarah Fisher
Hannah Fitzpatrick
Emily Flock
Sara Frankiewicz
Joneilyn Gabriel
Kate Galvan
Kimberly Galvan
Samantha Garfinkel
Mallory Garrison
Timothy Gerlach
Taylor Gillen
Megan Gillum
Justin Glenn
Ellen Golackson
Adam Gough
Oliver Graham
Julia Gralczyk
Nicole Greal
John Groot
Allison Groves
Emily Guerin
Paola Guerrero-Toledo
Tyler Hamilton
Clara Hanford
Ashley Hart
Quinn Hendricks
Sean Hux
Emily Irish-Ryan
Maya Irvin-Vitela
Jordan Jedry
Lauren Johnson
Carolyn Kammer
Laurel Kane
Dylan Kelly
Hannah Kemp
Camille Khaliy
Evan Kirkeeng
Sarah Kish
Jason Kiwanuka
Adam Klopfenstein
Sarah Kmiec
Ryan Knue
Megan Koenig
Hajrje Kolimja
Morgan Krause
Zoe Krey
Julia Larson
Abigail Leeper
Amanda Leichliter
Chloe Leuthaeuser
Kira Light
Desiree Lloyd
Steven Long

Carmen Lorenzo
Samuel Lubliner
Kevin Ma
Denise Macias
Rebecca MacMaster
Margaret Madsen
Megan Magsarili
Sana Malik
Joanna Martinez
Shannon Massey
Zach Matukewicz
Jenna McDonnell
Keaton McManamy
David McManus
Andrew Menke
Jessica Mercado
Yasmin Mitchel
Makayla Mizer
Alan Motkowski
Kyle Morrell
Andrea Moss
Lena Sophia Muldoon
Katherine Mumma
Molly Murray
Ashley Naratadam
Samantha Nartadam
Taylor O'Bryan
Alison Ogunmokun
Alexa Ohm
Ben Oman
Emily O'Reilly
Karla Ortiz
Nicholas Oviatt
Cristian Ovies
Amy Parker
Michael Parker
Kajal Patel
Megan Pietz
Benedict Piper
Jacob Pnakovich
Justin Potvin
Anna Powers
John Pridmore
Nancy Pulido Ruiz
Lauren Quinlan
Raja'Nee Redmond
Lindsey Reigert
Emily Remsen
Kyle Rezwin
Samuel Ridge
Carolyn Robinson
Jessen Roeske-Smith
Richard Roesner
Brandon Roman
Farewell to Rose Spalding

The Honors Program would like to wish a fond farewell to Professor Rose Spalding, who will be stepping down as Honors Program Director at the end of this academic year. Professor Spalding has served as Honors Program Director for the last five years, and in her time as director, implemented a number of innovations and improvements, including the Honors Student Conference. We would like to thank Professor Spalding for her strong and kind leadership and years of dedication and commitment to improving the undergraduate experience for Honors Program students.

We would also like to welcome the new Director, Professor Martha Martinez-Firestone of the Sociology department. Professor Martinez-Firestone teaches HON 201: States, Markets, and Societies, and HON 207: Cognitive Studies in the Honors Program. She is also an Honors Program Distinguished Faculty, and a member of the Honors Program Faculty Committee, serving as chair of the Online Teaching subcommittee, and the Hybrid Policy Committee. Congratulations from the Honors community, Professor Martinez-Firestone!
Hello, everyone!

Thank you to the Honors Program—Rose, Nancy, Jennifer, and Emma—for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. Before I begin, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge how big of a moment this is for all of us. Throughout the past four years, there have been times where this journey has felt truly endless and, speaking on a personal note, as I’m standing on this stage and looking out, I can pick out specific faces in the crowd that got me through those times.

To all of my fellow graduating seniors—WE MADE IT! I am honored to be a part of such an involved, talented, and dedicated group of people. The Class of 2017 has been through a lot together and, when we are walking across the stage in just a few short weeks, we have a lot to be proud of and quite a few people to thank.

Thank you to our families, both biological and chosen. You have been the strength and support that got us to this room, so close to holding a diploma. This victory is one that we share with each and every one of you.

The Honors Program shaped our DePaul experience into a challenging, yet comfortable and intimate one—not an easy feat at the largest Catholic university in the United States.

Evolution is defined by my biology major roommate and fellow Honors student, Alex Boyd, as the “propagation of fit traits over time.” If any science-minded folks disagree, she will be available to debate the nuances her definitions after this. In my four years at DePaul, I’ve only taken the minimum number of required science courses so both you and I will have to take her word for it.

You may be wondering why a Communications student is lecturing graduating seniors and their families about evolution, of all things. When I was thinking about what to say today, it felt only logical to look back at my roots.

My grandmother, Ann McCormack Murray, graduated from college in 1951 and went on to earn a Master’s degree and teach in the public school system during a time when the few women who were able to attend college were majoring in home economics. My grandmother then raised my dad, who travelled from New York to be with us today, with the same love of education and sent him off to a college he loved, which shall remain nameless as they are one of our Big East rivals and today is all about DePaul.

I tell you this because when it was time for me to choose a college, I was encouraged to seek out a university that could challenge me academically and expose me to worldviews and perspectives that differed from my own, a place where I could explore my passions and discover new interests. I came to DePaul University—800 miles away from my hometown—joined the Honors Program, and carved out my place as a Blue Demon.

I don’t think either my grandmother or my father could have ever imagined what my specific college experience would look like. I have taken Honors class like “Discover Chicago: Grassroots Writing” and “HON 205: Coffeehouses and Culture in Turn of the Century Vienna.” I have travelled in India and visited the Taj Mahal while studying contemporary Indian literature.

Show of hands: Who here has studied abroad? Who here has been a part of Honors Student Government? Whose work is being exhibited outside right now? Who has had one or more internships? Who here has taken an experiential learning course that involved going out in the community and doing service?

These are things that I never could have imagined would have been part of my college experience, as I’m sure it wasn’t on your mind when you first applied to DePaul. I can say with a fair amount of certainty that college looked very different back in 1951 and 1988.

Evolution is the propagation of fit traits over time. Learning is evolution. Passing down a deep love and appreciation for education is evolution. Each and every one of us has evolved as students, people, and Vincentians.

Think back to freshman year. Picture your first day, walking into your Honors Discover or Explore Chicago class. I know that 18-year-old Molly was positively terrified. Like hand-shaking, almost-forgot-my-own-name terrified. And then, when I somehow convinced myself to walk through the door, it wasn’t scary. Sure it was challenging, but within that very first day, my Discover Chicago class created an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect that I have found to be a prerequisite for all of my Honors classes. Whether it was accidentally running into a little known local artist named Chance the Rapper, or being crammed into a city bus in 90-degree temperatures, we were a support system for one another during those first few weeks.

Now, whenever I have an Honors class, I find comfort in walking through the doors and being able to pick out
“Learning is evolution. Passing down a deep love and appreciation for education is evolution.”
My IQ must have increased just looking around the room full of my classmates’ posters. The posters covered topics including “Analyzing Equities’ Profiles and Risk Tendencies,” by sophomore Michael Sherman, and “The Aesthetic of Authenticity and the Vintage Clothing Industry in Portland,” by sophomore Madeleine Byrne. With subjects ranging from science to art, the posters all appealed to the eye. Next to each one stood an Honors Program student giving a confident summary of their research to an interested parent, friend, professor, or guest. And there I was, next to my own poster, talking to a succession of passers-by. As a freshman, the Honors Program had given me my first opportunity to present at an academic conference.

Presenting at an academic conference as a freshman was intimidating, but I was not alone. Freshman Miriam Cortinovis, a German and English major, presented on prison reform, while freshman Emily Katzman, Arabic studies and women’s and gender studies major, presented on the paparazzi’s interaction with the First Amendment. Twelve other freshmen presented posters, alongside twenty-seven sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

These presentations had their beginnings in assignments from Honors classes over the past academic year. Professors nominated students to share these assignments at the Honors Student Conference via tri-fold posters and conversations with conference guests. My own poster was a final research paper for Honors 100: Rhetoric and Critical Inquiry with Professor Susan Jacobs. Translating the project into a poster—and reaching back to something I completed and put away fall quarter—proved difficult. How do you get a poster out of a lengthy research paper? Though I am still not sure, my counterparts and I did. After designing and printing the posters, we saw the fruits of our labor at the conference.

While poster presenters attended their first, second, or third academic conference, 46 seniors capped off their final year of undergraduate studies with an even weightier project. Two quarters’ worth of work culminated into their oral and visual thesis presentations. Their topics were as wide-ranging as those of the poster presentations, reflecting the conference’s theme of “Spotlight on Research and Creativity.” Digital cinema major Julia Gralczyk presented “Creating Little Red Riding Hood: Morality, Sexuality, and the Evolution of a Classic Tale.” Biological sciences major Michael Wade presented “Temperature Effects on Spatially Disparate White Spruce Populations.”

Taking my work outside of the classroom offered a unique opportunity. Guests’ questions and observations prompted me to think about the subject matter in ways I never would have otherwise. I learned that my topic, the effects of parental incarceration on children, resonated with a surprising number of people. I left confident in my work and convinced of its importance for more than just a grade. The community atmosphere of the conference was even more educational than my individual experience could have been. I learned more from my peers’ projects than I ever could have from simply presenting my own.
Senior Thesis Projects

Michelle Aelion
Madeline Anderson
Lizabeth Applewhite
Elena Becerril Salas
Elise Belluccia
Alexandria Boutros
Jane Bradley
Graciela Covarrubias
Thomas Cushing
Clarissa Dallman
Erica Dix
Elizabeth Donovan
Sarah Fisher
Emily Flock
Sara Frankiewicz
Kate Jillian Galvan
Mallory Garrison
Julia Graalcyk
Allison Groves
Tyler Hamilton
Evman Kirkeeng
Adam Klopfenstein
Hajrije Kolimja
Morgan Krause
Abigail C. Leeper
Kira Light
Samuel Lubliner
Rebecca MacMaster
Shannon Massey
David McManus
Kyle Paul Morrell
Lena Sophia Muldoon
Katherine Mumma
Sarah Nolimal
Alison A. Ogumokun
Nicholas Oviatt
Justin Potvin
Sam Ridge
Carolyn Robinson
Brandon Roman
Nicholas Salek
Jonathan Schrauger
Madison Schroeder
Sydney Sewell
Emma Squier
Phoebus Sun Cao
Madalyn Tenace
Michelle Velazquez
Michael Wade
Austin Shepard Woodruff

The Impact of African American Male Incarceration Rates on the Racial Disparity in HIV/AIDS Rates
A Look at The Process of Adoption of English Loanwords in Japanese and Spanish
Those Who Haunt Us With Their Love: Art, AIDS, and Activism
Panoptic Urbanism: Techniques of State Power from Imperialism to Neoliberalism
The American Musical as an Evolved Medium for Artistic Innovation and Socio-Political Storytelling
Education as the Problem and Solution to the Enforcement of International Law
Obstetric Violence in the United States: The Systemic Mistreatment of Women During Childbirth
The Impact of Latinx Mental Health Stigmas on the Success of First Generation College Students
Houston, Where’s My Copilot? Examining the Effects of Pilot Shortages
Frontages: A Photographic Essay of Uptown 2016
Midwestern Birds and Their Mythologies
Step Up Your Sports Conversation Game: An Entrepreneurial Venture
The Choice Between Liking and Reproducing: Maternal Mortality in Afghanistan
American Sexual Assault and Rape Since the Rise of Donald Trump
Loving the State: The Dynamics of Chinese Nationalism and Implications of China’s Role in International Relations
Undocumented Immigrants in Healthcare: What Can We Do?
Young Voters’ Support for Candidates throughout the 2016 Election
Creating Little Red Riding Hood: Morality, Sexuality, and the Evolution of a Classic Tale
Cats and the Economy
Without A Home, But Not Without Hope
Re-Evaluating the Prospect of International Conflict
Co-Competition: Designing for “Spirit” in Competitive Games
I Sleep in the Devil’s Dreams
What We Make and Leave Behind: Emotionality in Art and Archaeology
Reproductive Trade-Offs in a Mast Seeding Species (Picea glauca)
The Parental State: A Study of the Wisconsin Child Welfare System during the Progressive Era
Rooftop Farms
The Constituted Good Life: A 21st Century Analysis
Something Borrowed, Something New: The Successful Marriage Between European Ideals and American Exceptionalism in Transcendentalist Literature
At the Line: A Local Case Study on Medicaid Expansion’s Effect on Healthcare Utilization
The Politics of Superheroes: Truth, Justice, and Whatever the American Way Is
Meiji Japanese Womanhood Through the Lens of Woodblock Prints and Western Feminist Movements
Dolls in American Culture from the End of Slavery to the Turn of the 20th Century
Life Cycle Assessment of Four Different Sweaters
School Ruins Brown Girls
Nebraska Values: The Power of Small and Local Public Institutions in Creating a Sustainable and Prosperous Economy
Zeman Effect Observations in Class I Methanol Masers Toward Supernova Remnants
On Akkasia and Empathy
Mutational Analysis of a Prefusion Model of the Herpesvirus Fusion Protein
Infrared Complex Refractive Indices for Motor Oil
Globalization Post 2008 and the Rise of the Anti-Free Trade Political Party
Remote Warfare: The Consequences of United States Counterterrorism Efforts in Yemen
Performance, Rhetoric, and the Rise of Trump
Exploring the Effects of Attachment Styles on Group Decision Making Errors
Contre Vents, Contre Marées: The Revitalization of Cajun French
Chromonobutyridine Drugs – Characterization and Reactions with Metal Complexes
Neoliberal Incarceration: Subjugating the Underclass
Ciudad Juarez and the Movement Against Feminicides in Latin America
Temperature Effects on Spatially Disparate White Spruce Populations
The Language of Memory: Literatures Within Histories
As I leaned against the inside of the Student Center elevator, patiently waiting for it to take its sweet time getting to the third floor, I pondered what awaited me at the Honors Student Conference. Once the silver doors coiled back, I looked beyond the array of refreshments and into the busy conference room filled with eager students and colorful posters. After venturing inside, I discovered that the Honors Student Conference was a gathering of diverse, creative, and curious people celebrating academic achievement with honest excitement and a willingness to nerd out about anything from Aziz Ansari to native birds of the Midwest.

The fourth annual Honors Student Conference: Spotlight on Research and Creativity was a chance for Honors students of different disciplines and interests to display and discuss exemplary works of research. The event featured both a poster display room where one could see many projects in a single room rotation in addition to small sections of formal presentations of senior thesis projects. A few friendly students were stationed outside the poster conference room for check-in, and after marking my name onto the sign-in sheet, I began to explore the perimeter of posters in the display room. I found myself intrigued by almost each board because of the interesting designs and subject matter.

The poster displays changed every hour for three display rounds, allowing for approximately 90 students to show off their work. Many students presented subjects that they were personally passionate about, like freshman Gillian Ostrowski. Though she is an actuarial science major, Ostrowski’s presentation, “Political Inequality in America: In-Depth Analysis of the Leading Causes,” focused on her interest in government, something that even led her to become an election judge in the 2016 primaries. “I thought it would be cool to present and show off the work I’ve done,” Ostrowski said.

Next to Ostrowski stood sophomore Olivia Kuhn, who shared her experiences of studying abroad in India. Her presentation “Ethnography of The Hijra: India’s Third Gender” anthropologically explained a specific group of religiously-mystic transgender citizens. Kuhn was particularly proud of her 17-page paper chronicling her culturally-shocking experience in India, which is why she wanted to present at the Honors Student Conference. “If you’re writing about something important or exciting, you should be able to share it,” Kuhn stated. Other presentations included sexual assault on college campuses, Holocaust remembrance, Medieval 13th century literature, human consciousness, photojournalism, and Cajun French.

Freshman Sofia Silveri Sytniak drew on her love of tattoos and concern about the effect they could have on her job prospects as inspiration for her project “Tattoos in the Workplace.” She believed the Honors Conference would be a good chance to practice presenting academically for her future career in psychology. “You really have to know your work to be able to present it to other people,” she added.

Senior theses ranged from major-specific papers to interactive projects to reflections of lifelong interests with self-conducted research. Through a poster board scrapbooked into a gothic fairytale book complete with a wolf mask, Julia Gralczyk displayed how she researched and created her own ideal film version of Red Riding Hood. She called the conference her “last hurrah,” stating that “the Honors Conference is a great opportunity to show off the work that you’ve been researching and to get exposure for your work.”

In rooms of four presenters, 10-minute formal thesis presentations were held based around themes like sociology and peace studies. Students have freedom when choosing the subject and form of their Honors thesis, which I learned about through thesis presentations, such as Tyler Hamilton’s presentation about the need for increased federal support for public housing.

The Honors Student Conference was truly a communal celebration for curious thinkers. Every presenter I spoke to enjoyed the experience, and I walked away with new connections and knowledge. In the words of junior Rose Murphy, who presented about political hegemony through comedy, “If you’re thinking about presenting, try it out! There’s free food!”
A Trip of a Lifetime

By Olivia Kuhn

My trip of a lifetime happened because I was running very early to class one day last winter quarter. I decided to hang out in the student center to pass the time. However, when I walked into the student center, I noticed many signs saying, “Winter Study Abroad Fair.” These signs piqued my interest and instead of sitting in Brownstones and scrolling through Facebook, I decided to walk around the tables and see if I had any interest in the study abroad programs.

Immediately after the fair, I called my parents and told them that I wanted to go to India the next winter. I had found the perfect program: “India’s Identities.” Through this program, I would study Indian anthropology and learn more about Indian literature, as well as travel to India. After some light begging, my parents finally agreed and it was official — I was going to India for two-and-a-half weeks.

Prior to traveling to India, I had only been out of the country two other times: once on a trip to Spain and France, and again on a spring break trip to Jamaica. Both times I traveled outside the United States, I did not experience culture shock. And so, before departing to India, I did not believe for a second that India would be any different.

However, once I arrived in India, I realized that I was completely wrong. I found it to be extremely challenging to adapt to my new environment. The very first night I was there, I saw families sleeping in the street, stray dogs and cats fighting over scraps of food, and so many other eye-opening visuals that I did not expect to be exposed to so quickly. Over the next few days, the culture shock did not lessen. I quickly learned that it would be very hard to travel through the streets of India incognito; everywhere my group went, there were always people staring at us. Always. Perhaps it was because my group was predominately white, or perhaps it was because every member in my group was a female, and in some Indian cities and towns, females do not often hang around in public spaces. Perhaps it was a combination of these two factors. Whatever the reason, I felt like I was under a microscope the entire time I was in India.

With the staring also came the asking for money. It was especially hard when young children would come and tug on the sleeve of my shirt and plead for rupees. Living in Chicago, one is introduced to homeless people and is familiar with being asked for money. However, the depth of poverty in India is not even comparable to the poverty in the United States.

Although many aspects of the trip were very overwhelming, most of the trip was amazing — a once in a lifetime trip. There were definitely hiccups (I was sick for a large portion of the trip, one of our bus drivers went on strike, a 12-hour train ride turned into a 20+-hour ride, I got stuck in a cab for an hour and 45 minutes because of the language barrier, and more), but all in all, it was an eye-opening, unique adventure.

While there, our group did classic tourist activities such as touring the Taj Mahal, the Red Fort, and several other famous Indian cultural sites. We also visited many different temples and mosques and traveled to different markets and saw areas where “the locals” go. My favorite was going to Elephanta Island, right off the coast of Mumbai and only accessible by ferry. The island features beautifully carved caves that were most likely constructed around the mid-5th to 6th centuries AD. Hindu gods are carved into the walls of the caves with such astonishing detail. The island is home to stray dogs, cats and many, many monkeys. While there, I couldn’t help but feel like I had stepped onto the Jurassic Park island.

If you’re ever presented with the chance to go to India, take it. I strongly recommend going to this beautiful country and experiencing the culture, food, and atmosphere. However, be prepared to experience culture shock and maybe even deal with illness. India is truly a magnificently and unique country and I am incredibly fortunate to have been able to experience it.

Pictured on the cover: Sarnath, where Buddha found enlightenment.
“Freizeit”

By Helen Kinskey

The word “Freizeit” in the German language directly translates to “free time” in English, but while studying abroad in Bonn I’ve come to realize that it means much more. Here in Germany, Freizeit is about experiencing leisure—there are Freizeit parks, Freizeit activities, and on Sundays all the stores and businesses are closed to allow for this Freizeit. The concept of just sitting in a café for hours without doing work or of “spazieren gehen” [going for a walk just to go for a walk] are integral to German life.

What a change that is from my fully scheduled days in Chicago and my constant sprints to and from the train. Contrary to the rigid and punctual view of Germany I had before coming here, I’ve found that the structure of German life allows me more time to simply live and appreciate daily life, even with something as small as buying groceries. Germans learn to slow down and go day-by-day, buying only their vegetables for that day’s meal. The concept of “buying in bulk” or squeezing in a week’s worth of eating reluctantly into one trip to fit in with a jam-packed schedule doesn’t exist here. That’s not to say that life here is never fast-paced or stressful.

But something really is different. I’m taking the same hours of classes as in Chicago, with a new language, a new place, and new friends, so I have the potential to be overwhelmed, but I’ve come nowhere close. The little day to day breaks and free time have allowed me to appreciate the concept of “Freizeit,” and recognize the importance of integrating leisure into the everyday.

The Purr-fect Internship

By Olivia Kuhn

This past winter, I interned at PAWS Chicago as the communications intern. PAWS Chicago is the largest animal organization in Chicago: it facilitates animal adoptions, has its own medical center to provide care to sick or injured animals, and it even has its own spay/neuter program to help reduce the number of homeless animals in Chicago. The main mission of PAWS Chicago is to make Chicago into a “No-Kill City,” meaning that no homeless animals will be euthanized. In 1997, the year that PAWS Chicago was founded, 42,561 animals in Chicago were euthanized. However, in 2016, the number of euthanized animals was under 9,000. Clearly, PAWS Chicago has made an incredible impact on the number of euthanized animals in the city. Although it has made such significant strides with its mission, it is not ready to give up until zero animals that deserve a happy, long life, are euthanized.

As the communications intern at PAWS Chicago, my main task revolved around the creation of animal stories. Animal stories are exactly what they sound like: they tell the story of how an animal came to PAWS Chicago, what it looked like when it got there (whether sick or injured), information about its recovery process, and any other anecdotes from its fosters or caretakers. In order to get the information for these stories, I had to interview the medical center staff, fosters, and adopters. Every Friday I would travel down to the PAWS Chicago Medical Center, which is located on West 26th Street, in the Little Village neighborhood. At the Medical Center, I would be introduced to various animals who were suffering from severe injuries and illnesses. I would take pictures of the animals as well as document notes about their conditions. After the interviews and trips to the Medical Center, I would compile the information and craft animal stories to be used for the PAWS Chicago magazine, newsletters, the website, social media, and various other marketing and communication purposes.

During my internship, I also was tasked with photographing and taking videos of the animals. This was hands-down one of my favorite parts of the internship. I would travel to the PAWS Chicago Adoption Center where I would spend long periods of time contorting my body in attempt to find the perfect angle to capture these beautiful animals. More often than not, I would be working with extremely photogenic animals. However, sometimes I would work with animals who were very camera shy and it would take almost half an hour just to get one decent shot.

If you’re wondering about how I managed to snag such an awesome internship, it was actually sheer luck. I was (Continued on next page)
browsing through my LinkedIn and I saw a post about PAWS Chicago hiring interns. I, of course, immediately pursued the application because I am an avid animal lover. I applied, interviewed, and got the internship.

I absolutely loved my time at PAWS Chicago. Despite the challenges of animal photography, it was so amazing to get to play with animals and take their pictures every week. It was also incredibly rewarding to see an animal get adopted so quickly after a photo I had taken had been put online. Furthermore, following an animal through its time at PAWS Chicago and writing its story had a profound impact on me. It was so gratifying to watch as an animal who was brought to PAWS Chicago extremely injured, would be healed, and eventually be adopted. I got to be there during its journey, reporting on its story through its time at PAWS Chicago. Writing the animal stories and taking photos of the animals helped me feel like I was making a difference in the lives of so many homeless pets. This internship gave me a way to combine my future career and my passion. I could not have asked for a more “purr-fect” first internship.

Honors Partnership on a Path to Success

By Michelle Blahnik

Honors Partnership may be the first step towards graduating with Honors Distinction, but it has also been the first step in my success here at DePaul.

Success looks like several different things to me. It’s learning how to manage responsibilities as I’m living on my own for the first time in my life. It’s academic achievement: taking classes and attending lectures that are engaging and inspiring. It’s having fun, making new friends, and doing things I’ve never done before with people I’ve never met. It’s about discovering what’s important to me and where I want to go next in my life, whether that be in my next year at DePaul or my career after my time here at the university.

Success is all these things. Looking back at my first year as a college student, I can say with certainty that the Honors Program has given me all of these things. Not only did my experiences in the Honors Program lead me to Honors Partnership, but they have helped make my freshman year the wonderful time it’s been.

I’ve been blessed to be a part of a community of wonderful staff, professors, and fellow students that have done nothing but support and guide me as I try to navigate the ins and outs of college life. My advisors, supervisors, and fellow Honors Student Government members are the people that I’ve been able to come to when picking out my classes or looking to get more involved with the Honors Program or other opportunities on campus.

I also live on the Honors floor of Seton Hall. There, I’m surrounded by a fun, close community of people that make living in a dorm a special experience. I won’t forget standing in the lounge, the room packed with people, as we all watched the TV in silence during the last few minutes of the Cubs World Series game only to then start screaming and cheering all together when our team won. I won’t forget going on the Heart Walk or attending the Honors Ball with even more Honors students.

The Honors Program has brought in amazing, inspiring guests like Steve Pemberton and Sr. Helen Prejean who have told us their stories. They’ve shown me what it looks like to have true, pure hope for life ahead of us, and how, by opening our hearts, we can find our calling and create social change.

Getting to meet these wonderful people (plus having my books signed!) and talking about important social issues of the past in my Radical Traditions course has only pushed me towards pursuing my passion of sociology. I’m continuing toward getting my degree next year, and I couldn’t be more excited.

The Honors Program has given me the opportunity to share these experiences with news students next year as a Resident Advisor and Chicago Quarter Mentor. I would bet, too, that being able to talk about my experiences in the Honors Program is what has allowed me the opportunity to be a part of these leadership and job opportunities for next year.
Happy Accidents in the Honors Program

By Aurora Lawrie

I achieved Honors Partnership at the end of spring quarter my freshman year. I hadn’t been keeping track of my points, so it seemed like a happy accident. In all honesty, achieving Honors Partnership hasn’t affected my relationship with my favorite part of the Honors Program, which is the classes. It’s difficult for me to pick a favorite class, because they’ve all been so good. Not only are the professors passionate about the subjects that they teach, which is wonderful, but they are also respectful toward their students and willing to accommodate our needs.

One of my most memorable Honors Program experiences was the Honors Ball of 2016. I went on a whim, not really sure what to expect. Because I arrived early, I got to help set up, and I met a few of the HSG board members, including the president, Kristina. She inspired me then, and she continues to inspire me with her poise, grace, courage, and determination. I remember thinking that she embodied what I knew of the Honors Program.

Another memorable Honors experience for me was my philosophy class. Professor Mike Edwards guided us through the writings of Plato, Hobbes, de Beauvoir, and Nietzsche with wisdom and dry humor. He took the words of men writing centuries ago (or, in the case of Plato, millennia ago) and made them relevant to our current struggles, needs, and fears, including Milo Yiannopoulos’ visit to campus and the 2016 election cycle. I’ll always remember his respect for every one of our opinions and his way of pushing us to think harder without seeming like he was pushing.

Socially, the Honors Program has provided me with opportunities to meet other like-minded individuals. Serving on HSG for part of this year — which I wouldn’t have been able to do if I hadn’t achieved partnership! — gave me new friendships and wonderful memories which I will treasure for the rest of my life. It’s always nice, too, to make connections with other students by discovering that we took the same class with the same professor, only in different quarters.

Achieving Honors Partnership was an accident, but it has enriched my life in many aspects. I recommend it to every student in the Honors Program. And if you achieve partnership, run for a position on the HSG board! Dedicated, talented students like you are exactly what HSG needs.

Spring is Conference Season!

The Departments of English, History, and Sociology recently held their annual conferences. These events showcased students’ hard work and creativity and gave the students the opportunity to present their work to their peers and professors in a formal setting.

Listed below are Honors Program students who took part in these conferences. The title of their work is also included.

Congratulations to all the presenters.

8th Annual Spring English Conference – Friday, April 28th
Cooper Gelb: “A Child’s God”
Claire Rohrbach: “Liar”
Rachael Wasaff: “Deconstruction and Psychoanalysis of Cupid & Psyche in Western Literature”
Austin Shepard Woodruf: “He felt nothing”; Destructive Masculinity and the Failure of the Patriarch in Mrs. Dalloway

13th Annual Student History Conference – Friday, May 5th
Genesis Agosto: “Gandhi: Not a Progressive Advocate for Female Education in India During the 20th Century”
Eric Deasy: “The Policy of the State is Neutral but the People are Not — Goodness Knows”; Kentucky Neutrality as an Unsustainable State Policy, 1860-1861”
John Eckenstein: “Selling the Fair: Image, Publicity, and the World’s Columbian Exhibition”
Justin Glenn: “Prozac for the Soul: Religious Anxiety as Motivation of the Lutheran Reformation”
Sean Hux: “Southerners in Civil War Era Chicago (1858-1868)”
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Yasmin Mitchell: “Tapestries of Representation: Middle Eastern, Arab, and Muslim Identity”
Margaret Olson: “Women in Crime: An Analysis on the Significance of Women on Gang Activity and Gender Roles in the Early 1930’s”

6th Annual Sociology Undergraduate Research Conference – Tuesday, May 16th
Jessica Mutter: “Abortion Attitudes”

First Year Writing Showcase – Wednesday, May 24th
Michelle Blahnik: “An Analysis of the Influence of the CW’s Supergirl on the Development of Children”
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“You must not tolerate the evil, but try to remedy it in a gentle way.”

Saint Vincent dePaul