

# HIM

## Honorable Mentions

spring.2013

## Celebrate.

Spring and summer mark special times in the seasonal cycle. As the weather warms up, we venture outside more and ultimately come together for parties. This is graduation party season. This is bike-riding season. This is a transitional season, when our leases end and we move to different apartments or different states and countries. Our Honors students have much to celebrate, from the events we've put on this year to the gifted, ambitious students leaving us to continue their journeys of success. Here's to the Honors Program and its amazing students. Cheers.



A collaboration by DePaul University's Honors Program



# Table of Contents

<b>Campus Resources</b> .....	<b>3</b>
<b>Honors Events</b> .....	<b>4</b>
Student Faculty Dinner at Leona's.....	4
Taking the Next Step: Insights from the Honors Alumni Panel ( <i>Alex Devine</i> ).....	5
A Great Gatsby Gala ( <i>Molly Baron</i> ).....	6
<b>Honorably Involved</b> .....	<b>8</b>
The Pep Band and the Big East ( <i>Molly Baron</i> ).....	8
No Way José! A trip to San Francisco's Game Developer's Conference 2013 ( <i>Alex Devine</i> ).....	9
Hoops and Hopes and Heroes ( <i>Kristina Pouliot</i> ).....	10
Ambassador Committee: The Freshmen Spark ( <i>Ashley Valentin</i> ).....	11
<b>Honorable Mentions</b> .....	<b>12</b>
Senior Gala 2013.....	12
Honors Thesis List.....	13
Scholarships and Other Honors.....	14
<b>Profile: Interview with Yuki Miyamoto</b> ( <i>Shaza Loutfi</i> ).....	<b>15</b>
<b>Exploration</b> .....	<b>16</b>
Biking Across the American Dream ( <i>Beth Lewis</i> ).....	16
Let's Be Sad Today and Let It Be Okay ( <i>Anna Nettie Hanson</i> ).....	17
Big Fish: The Story, the Musical ( <i>Theresa Bailey</i> ).....	18
<b>City Life: Get Outside this Spring</b> ( <i>Cynthia Stacy</i> ).....	<b>19</b>
<b>Darndest Things</b> .....	<b>20</b>
<b>Creative License</b> ( <i>Alex Jewell</i> ).....	<b>21</b>
<b>The Road Ahead</b> .....	<b>22</b>
"You're off to Great Places" ( <i>Ryan Zieman</i> ).....	22
Post-Graduation Plans.....	23

*Thanks to everyone who contributed!*

**Co-Editors:** Alex Jewell and Lisa Plachy

**Advisor:** Jennifer Kosco

hsgnewsletter@gmail.com

# Campus Resources

## Visit the Career Center

You may think the Career Center is only a place to go to find an internship. Sure, they do that, but they also offer so much more! The Career Center can help you decide on a major, a career choice, help you polish your résumé, conduct mock interviews to hone your skills, and much more. The Career Center offers workshops ranging from job search strategies to interviewing skills to graduate school information sessions. To find out more about what the Career Center can do for you, visit their website: [www.careercenter.depaul.edu](http://www.careercenter.depaul.edu). You can also visit one of their offices at these convenient campus locations: in the Loop, they are located in Suite 9500 of the DePaul Center (1 East Jackson); on the Lincoln Park campus, they are in Room 192 of the Schmitt Academic Center (SAC) at 2320 N. Kenmore.

## Have a Big Paper Due Soon? The Writing Center Can Help You Make it the Best it Can Be!

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

They work with writers on many kinds of projects from research papers and lab reports to Master's theses and personal projects. They offer techniques to help writers focus and develop ideas, evaluate and summarize sources, and edit and revise their drafts.

Visit the Writing Center's website to find out locations, hours, services, and much more! <http://condor.depaul.edu/writing/>

## Need a Helping Hand? FREE Tutoring is Available for You

Visit CSH's Science and Math Learning Center (SMLC). It's a one stop shop for free tutoring and academic support in O'Connell Hall 300 in the LPC. Tutors cover chemistry, mathematical sciences, physics, psychology (for statistics), quantitative reasoning (for LSP 120/121), and writing in the sciences. The SMLC operates on a walk-in only basis and is available to any currently enrolled DPU student with a valid student ID. Students must bring their valid student IDs with them. Here is a link to the SMLC website, including the AQ1213 tutoring schedule of walk-in availability: <http://csh.depaul.edu/student-resources/advising-student-services/Pages/Science-and-Math-Learning-Center.aspx>

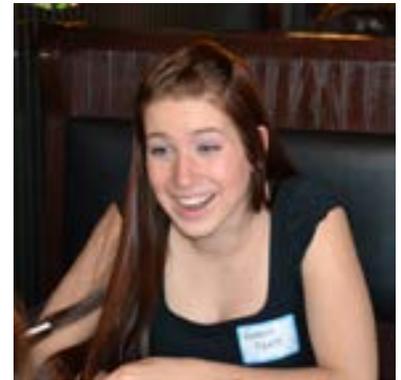
## WWVD? (What Would Vincent Do?)

Are you interested in serving others? As a DePaul student, you have the opportunity to honor the Vincentian spirit by getting involved in DCSA, the DePaul Community Service Association. Choose from any number of weekly service options, and serve with other DePaul students. Visit the DCSA page on the OrgSync site, and start volunteering this week: [https://orgsync.com/custom\\_pages/34496/show/6139](https://orgsync.com/custom_pages/34496/show/6139)

# Honors Events

## Student Faculty Dinner at Leona's

On Wednesday, May 8th, Leona's on Sheffield was the site of the Spring Student Faculty Dinner. Honors Program faculty, students, and staff enjoyed a delicious buffet and great conversation. Here are some photos from the evening.



Photos from Jennifer Kosco

# Honors Events

## Taking the Next Step: Insights from the Honors Alumni Panel by Alex Devine

On Friday, April 19, in DePaul's Lincoln Park Welcome Center, Honors Student Government, in collaboration with the DePaul Alumni Association, hosted the first Honors Program Alumni Panel, aimed at bringing together past and current Honors students to share networking tips, career advice and general guidance on life in and after the Honors Program. Four esteemed Honors alumni attended, each with a different career and perspective. We welcomed David Braden (LAS '05 International Studies and Spanish), now the Director of Development at the Reconciling Ministries Network; Renita Young (CMN '07 Communication), a Multimedia Journalist at Thomas Reuters; Andrew Riplinger (CSH '08 Psychology, LAS '08 Political Science, MA '12 International Studies), the International Project Director in DePaul University's Masters of Public Health Program; and Lindsey Wallem (LAS '08 Sociology), an Online Brand Specialist at Equity Residential.



While the event itself was a panel discussion, the majority of the event was spent as a Q&A session. The uniqueness of this event arose from the fact that each attendee had his or her own personalized set of questions prepared. Another notable element of the night was how useful the panel's discussion of these questions was, at times even more useful than any specific answers. Because of this, specific questions were broadened to apply to more students and their unique circumstances. For example, I personally do not have the slightest idea what I want to pursue as a career. However, the panel discussed following your passions rather than one specific position or career, which is a great piece of advice that anyone can follow.

On the other hand, there were questions of mine that I was surprised to have answers to. I had been stuck for a while attempting to portray the benefits of the Honors Program to a potential employer. Instead of focusing on the coursework, I learned I should emphasize my critical speech and thinking skills, the desire to go the extra mile, and a tendency to be proactive. This proves useful advice for any Honors student attempting to apply their experience outside of academia. Another issue I've had recently is balancing schoolwork, involvement, and work experience. The entire panel preached "more involvement, more experience," but my concern was on maintaining coursework. The panel's recommendation was to prioritize. They noted that you approach your 'tipping point' when those priorities aren't maintained.



My personal reflections of the Honors Program first Alumni panel aimed to emphasize that this event was beneficial to anyone. Whether your undergraduate career is nearing an end (like yours truly), you are looking to add to/improve your résumé, or you are trying to take that first step toward starting your first job, there was something for everyone to take away from the panelists' experiences and advice.

### Some Memorable Advice from the Panelists:

On finding your dream job: "Careers can find you just like you can find a career, so be open to any possibilities. You never really have a dream job until you're actually in it." – David Braden.

On experience: "Relevant experience is obviously ideal, but any experience in a working environment is more valuable than it may seem. I thought my experience as a waiter was inconsequential, but it requires communication, people skills, and a positive attitude. These are skills that just about any career will require." – Andrew Riplinger.



# Honors Events

## A Great Gatsby Gala *by* Molly Baron

The planning for this year's Honors Ball—from creative planning to actually putting on the event—was long and stressful at times, but incredibly rewarding. Our committee met all of our goals for the event and even exceeded some. This year, we reached out to multiple organizations across campus to make our Ball a truly campus-wide experience.

After choosing the Great Gatsby theme, we sought to involve DePaul's English honorary society, Sigma Tau Delta, and DePaul's Swing Society to create an authentic Gatsby-era atmosphere for attendees. Rather than charge admission or suggest monetary donations, we asked that students donate a book to the Sigma Tau Delta book drive. Approximately 125 books were donated to Better World Books, an organization that leads literacy initiatives around the world. In addition, our attendance was over 125 students, a record turnout! Sigma Tau Delta has even agreed that, if Honors Student Government wants to continue to collaborate, the book drive will become an annual tradition at the Honors Ball.



In addition to Sigma Tau Delta, the DePaul Swing Society co-sponsored this year's dance. Not only did the Swing Society

teach a dance lesson for the attendants, but a trio of dancers performed in the middle of the dance, impressing even the more experienced swing dancers in the crowd. Despite slight technical difficulties, novices and experts alike were able to dance to their hearts' content.

Jake Bronson's Lounge Players proved to be one of the main highlights of the evening. This dapper group of musicians provided live jazz and swing music for the ball. They were great to work with and extremely talented onstage. If you're planning a classy evening, we highly recommend this band. Everyone loved them!

HSG was able to receive full funding for the Ball from SAF-B this year, an Honors Ball first! Thanks to this money and a generous donation from Nancy Grossman, the remainder of the evening



was filled with food, card and dice games, a costume contest and a raffle. A fedora filled with candy, movie tickets, and a gift card was raffled off, and Elvira Botello accepted the prize on behalf of Alex Jewell. Dapper looking Ryan Zieman was voted by the judges as best-dressed and won a gift card and personalized plaque. Thanks to everyone's hard work, we were all able to have a swell time at this year's Honors Ball! Jay Gatsby would have approved.



# Honors Events



## A Great Gatsby Gala 2013

# Honorably Involved

## The Pep Band and the Big East *by Molly Baron*

Even those who don't love to watch sporting events would enjoy a free trip to the East Coast. This year, I traveled with DePaul's Screamin' Demons Pep Band to Hartford, Connecticut, New York City, and Durham, North Carolina, to perform at the Big East and NCAA basketball games. We performed for both the men's and women's teams in several arenas, including Duke University's Cameron Indoor Stadium and even Madison Square Garden. Despite some hostility over the Catholic Seven, a few rainy days, and a trip that ended early, the band had a blast.

Despite the timing of the tournaments during finals week and spring break, DePaul made travel as stress-free as possible and treated the band and cheer squad very well. Proctors were available for on-the-road exams; meals and accommodations were free for the students; and travel included private busses and even a chartered jet. In addition to playing during the games, the band had the opportunity to explore the various cities. In New York City, some of us visited Times Square and Rockefeller Plaza. In North Carolina, the whole band received a tour of Duke University, the University of North Carolina, and downtown Durham, a quaint street of shops and even an old-fashioned ice-cream parlor.

If there's one thing the band (and any college student) loves, it's free food. Throughout our travels this year, we tried several restaurants and dined with the cheer squad and the basketball teams. We ate authentic barbeque at Bullock's Bar-B-Q in Durham and Hot Tamales in Connecticut, where the meal was generously donated by a DePaul fan.

Ultimately, a free paid vacation can't be beat, but the Big East tournament also afforded us the opportunity to see other bands and teams made of students just like us. You can yell and cheer for your team, and complain about which cheer squad gets the most time on camera, but you have to remember that the band across the court isn't a unit, but a group of individuals just trying to have fun. We're all students doing our best to balance our studies with the extra-curricular interests and hobbies that we are passionate about (I've been playing trombone for ten years, two in our Pep Band). While I thoroughly enjoyed my trips to the East Coast, nothing beats coming back to "Sweet Home Chicago."



# Honorably Involved

## No Way José! A trip to San Francisco's Game Developer's Conference 2013 *by Alex Devine*

No matter how much we despise it, we've all seen a DePaul tuition bill at least once. There's the meat of the bill that's pretty obvious, there's the U-Pass part of the bill that's really handy, and the rest of the bill that's just there. But what if I told you that the \$25 Student Activity Fee in your tuition could fund a five-day trip to San Francisco for a group of four students? Well, not quite. There's a little bit more to the story than that. Not all trips to San Francisco are created equal, and only once a year can that trip be to one of the largest video game conferences in the U.S.

The Game Developer's Conference (GDC for short) is an industry-wide gathering of professional video game developers: artists, composers, designers, producers, programmers, quality analysts, writers, and anyone else that is involved with the creative process. GDC as a whole is a mixture of professional networking with an intellectual forum. The multiple exhibits and expo floors served as prime examples of this mixture. Once such exhibit is the pictured GDC Play, in which in-development games were showcased for demos and feedback from all attendees.

I was one of four undergraduates who traveled to GDC along with fellow DePaul students Christopher Klein, Pierce McBride, and Sam Griffith. As attendees, our main focus was the hours of lectures, panels, and roundtable sessions that occurred throughout the week. An awesome moment was when I found out that Professor José Zagal from DePaul was part of a Game Educators talk. The fact that someone from DePaul would be asked to present at GDC was very surprising to me at first (hence the title). Yet the more that I think about it, the less surprised I am. A large majority of faculty here at DePaul are active researchers in their field and have significant career experience, which is exactly the type of person that would be presenting at GDC.



While GDC was of course our main focus, it wouldn't be a Spring Break trip without some touristy activities. I personally got to check off four things from my Tourist To-Do List: an authentic meal in Chinatown, a ride on a vintage cable car, a visit to Pier 39, and dinner on Fisherman's Wharf. Interestingly, one of the first video games that I ever played, Tony Hawk's Pro Skater 4, had a level that was almost an exact replica of Pier 39, sea lions and all. Walking into Pier 39 was a weird and awesome combination of déjà vu and nostalgia, which was then punctuated with an amazing seafood dinner that evening and it served as a perfect way to end our stay at San Francisco. From a tourist's perspective, it would have been nice to visit a few other places during the trip, like Alcatraz or the Golden Gate Bridge, but I always prefer to actively do something cool rather than just sightseeing.

After attending GDC, part of the SAF-B funding agreement was to provide an opportunity to share the information gained at GDC with the rest of the DePaul student body. This opportunity occurs every April with DeFRAG's GDC DeCon event, which this year was on April 5th. DeCon is a free event in which the people who attended GDC give talks on pertinent topics from GDC. We also invite Chicagoland game developers to a panel Q&A session, much like the panels at GDC. This way, we as a DePaul organization can extend academics to places outside of the classroom.

It doesn't get much better than spring break in San Francisco—that is, unless it's a fully-funded spring break trip to San Francisco for one of the largest gaming expos in the country.

# Honorably Involved

## Hoops and Hopes and Heroes *by Kristina Pouliot*

Hundreds of comic strips and dozens of movies have it all wrong: you don't need to fall into a vat of radioactive waste or be bitten by a mutant spider to be a hero. Being a hero can be as easy as being a mentor and a friend. This is a lesson that the students of Hoops and Hopes have learnt very well. These student volunteers make up the organization Hoops and Hopes, a DCSA (DePaul Community Service Association) volunteer group that meets twice a week. At 3:30 in the afternoon every Monday and Wednesday, this group gets in a van and begins a 25 minute voyage to the Kelly Hall YMCA in Humboldt Park, where they will spend two hours with the children and adult volunteers who call the Y their after-school home.



Dane Hansen is a freshman Honors Math major who has been volunteering with Hoops and Hopes since the beginning of Winter Quarter. His favorite part of volunteering at "Hoops," as it is known, is working with the kids and building relationships with them. "Developing the relationships with these kids gives them a positive influence on their attitudes and behaviors,"

Hansen says, "but as the relationships grow closer, it's also easier for them to look up to us as role models."

For the first hour of volunteering, students split up and work with smaller groups of children on various activities. This can include anything from tutoring to crafts to basketball in the Kelly Hall gym. "Every week is different," says Hansen. "That's what makes it fun." At 5:00 p.m., all the volunteers and YMCA children come together in the Cafeteria, where dinner is served and kids and volunteers alike laugh, joke, and talk.

An hour later, it is time for the volunteers to head back to DePaul. This trip back is used for reflection: volunteers share stories about their experiences and talk about any issues they may have had with particular students.

Jill Theile is another freshman in the Honors program, majoring in elementary education. The tutoring and teaching aspect of her work at the Y relates to her major, but she sees value in her volunteering that is deeper than just a line on her resume. "[Volunteering] is a totally unique experience and you learn in ways that you can't in a classroom," she explains, "because it comes solely from what you see and do and the emotions you feel."

Theile recommends volunteering for all students. "It's something you have to see for yourself." Fortunately, there are over 40 different DCSA volunteering sites that students can get involved with. She notes, "Anyone can find something that suits their interests."

Theile says that the relationships she has built over the course of this year with the kids at the Y have been the most rewarding part of her work. "I still have a lot to learn with [them]," she says with a smile. "I'm creating trust and memories with them. I'm excited for the future of these relationships, that's why I keep coming back." These relationships are what make Hansen, Theile, and the many other students of Hoops and Hopes heroes for the adorable kids at the Kelly Hall YMCA. These heroes don't need capes or tights; their dedication and connection to the children that they work with make them more worthy of hero status than superpowers ever could.

# Honorably Involved

## **Ambassador Committee: The Freshmen Spark** *by Ashley Valentin*

Being an Ambassador in the Honors Program not only includes telling people why DePaul is the best, but also why they're missing out if they stick solely with the Liberal Arts & Studies core. I have always liked the Ambassador program because it granted me my first opportunity to act like a real college student. In my mind, I wasn't technically a college student until I could tell others what it was like to be one. I remember last year how surreal it was to have students ask me questions that I had just asked a few months before. Once the college search stops, it really stops. Talking to all of the new students gave me a little insight into my memories of how I went about choosing DePaul and the Honors Program.

What was even stranger was realizing that I am now a sophomore. The "not-freshmen life" hit me when I found out that, as the Ambassador co-chair, I was sending more emails than interacting with prospective students. I now had a league of freshmen to do the duties of showing what the Honors program had to offer. Having responsibility and taking charge of things was definitely a switch for me from my freshmen year. People rely on you and expect things from you after you've adjusted from that first year. The students that I worked with on the first Ambassador training day had that kind of spark that comes with freshmen year. Everyone knows what that spark is when they have it, but once it's gone, no one can fully explain it. Working with freshmen constantly reminds me of the importance of self-growth. There is a shift from not knowing where the Honors office is to knowing Briana on a first-name basis. There is a shift from not being able to speak in groups to explaining to three families the benefits of the Honors Program. The self-growth that comes from being and with working with freshmen makes them the best at talking to prospective students and some of the greatest people to work with.

# Honorable Mentions

## Senior Gala 2013

Four years of hard work culminated in a celebration Sunday, May 19 for Honors Program Seniors. Students and their families enjoyed a display of senior thesis projects, ceremony, and a reception (including a champagne toast!) to celebrate their upcoming graduation. Congrats to all the grads!



Photos from Jennifer Kosco

# Honorable Mentions

## Honors Thesis List

The following Honors Program seniors opted to do a thesis for their senior capstone requirement. Listed below are the titles of their thesis projects, which were on display at the Honors Senior Gala on Sunday, May 19th. Congratulations to all!

**Molly Bandonis (Media & Cinema Studies/Journalism):** 'That actually made me sadder than anything: the fact that I felt so numb': Extending Representations of Mood-stabilizing Medication in Garden State, Silver Linings Playbook and 60 Minutes to an Othering Seen throughout Filmic and Journalistic History  
*Director:* Luisela Alvarez, Media & Cinema Studies

**Matthew Baran (Digital Cinema/Computer Games Development):** Sparkle Squad and Including Special Needs Participants in Extracurricular Activities  
*Director:* Scott Erlander, Digital Cinema

**Jenna Bergevin (Physics):** Gravitational Wave Detection: An International Effort  
*Director:* Jesus Pando, Physics

**Karly Bergmann (Dramaturgy/Criticism):** The 'Authentic' Problem in Performance of Culture  
*Director:* Dean Corrin, Theatre

**Chelsea Cohen (Anthropology):** Tourism of the Notorious and the Urban Experience  
*Director:* Robert Rotenberg, Anthropology

**Lillian Colonna (Mathematics):** Math and Art: The Objectivity of Beauty  
*Director:* Matthew Girson, Art, Media & Design

**Rebecca Dickson (Marketing):** Marketing to Millennials: Why Marketers Should Look at Gen Y Differently  
*Director:* Melissa Markley, Marketing

**Kevin Doherty (International Studies):** From Bandit to NarcoSaint: The Stories of Jesús Malverde  
*Director:* Michael McIntyre, International Studies

**Thomas Edwards (History of Art & Architecture):** Problems in Cultural Translation: Historicizing the Black

Folk Subject in Post-20th Century America  
*Director:* Joanna Gardner-Huggett, History of Art & Architecture

**Heather Essig (English):** Femme Portrayal in Medieval Poetry: Henryson's Reconstruction of Chaucer's Criseyde  
*Director:* William Fahrenbach, English

**Alyson Hankwitz (Public Policy):** A True Comparison: The Debate Between Public Schools and Charter Schools in Chicago  
*Director:* William Sampson, Public Policy

**Caullen Hudson (Digital Cinema):** What's Beef? – The Construction of Street Culturalism  
*Director:* Christopher Deis, Political Science

**Christopher Misa (Music Composition):** Protein Music  
*Director:* Justin Maresh, Chemistry

**Shelby Mongan (Catholic Studies):** Mother of God, Caretaker of the Earth: Synthesizing a Marian Eco-Theology  
*Director:* Peter Casarella, Catholic Studies

**Moira Phippen (Economics):** Purchase, Pass, or Pirate: Fairness and Consumer Decision Making in the Digital Age  
*Director:* Benjamin Epstein, Political Science

**Lauryn Reid (Vocal Performance):** The Singing Voice: Understanding the Value of Early Classical Voice Recordings (1900-1930)  
*Director:* Jane Bunnell, Music Performance

**Sam O'Brien (English):** Power of the Industrial Novel: The New Working Class in Mid-Victorian Literature and Society  
*Director:* James Murphy, English

**Kasia Szymanska (History):** Jane, 1969-1973  
*Director:* Colleen Doody, History

**Ryan Jeff Zieman (Integrated Marketing Education):** Connecting with the Social Consumer  
*Director:* Zafar Iqbal, Marketing

# Honorable Mentions

## Scholarships and Other Honors

Several Honors Program students recently presented their work at DePaul's Ninth Annual Student History Conference, held at the Student Center on April 26th. Students were encouraged by faculty to submit their papers, and the best ones were selected for recognition at the conference. Listed below are the students and the titles of their papers/presentations. Congratulations to all!

**Karina Alvarez:** "Comparing Two Primary Sources: Las Casas," "Thirty Propositions," and Montaigne's "Of Cannibals"

**\*Callie Bretthauer:** "From *jus sanguinis* to *jus soli*: Germany's Change in Citizenship Law in 2000 and How the British and American Media Perceived the Integration and Education of Turkish Youth"

**\*Carly Faison:** "In Pictures and Words: Vincentian Missionaries' Representations of Chinese Children in the 1930s and 1940s"

**Rosa Gallagher:** "Samuel Stanhope Smith's Monogenism as Warning of Disorder and White Identity Loss in Early National America"

**Austin Keisewetter:** "The Everyman's Rocket Ship: Defining Conceptions of Science in Interwar Science-Fiction Pulp Magazines, 1934-1941"

**Matthew Morley:** "Influences on the Formation of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia"

**Ginny Nem:** "Caught in the Crossfire: The Victimization of Muslim Women to Establish the Middle Eastern-Western Dichotomy in Conservative British Media"

**Kasia Szymanska:** "Jane, 1969-1973"

*\*New inductee to Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society)*

Congratulations to first-year Honors student Christian Talbot, who will officially receive the rank of Eagle Scout on June 15, the highest rank in scouting, and one that is achieved by only five percent of scouts. He completed a 115-hour service project to clean, paint, repair, and organize the storage facility at P.A.D.S., an organization that serves the homeless in the western suburbs.

Congratulations to two DePaul Honors program sophomores, Alex Kfoury and Siobhan O'Neill, who both recently received the language intensive Critical Language Scholarship, awarded by the US Department of State. The scholarship will give them an all-expenses paid eight-week summer home stay in Morocco to continue their studies of the Arabic language in an immersive environment. For more information on the Critical Language scholarship and to apply for next year, visit [www.clscholarship.org](http://www.clscholarship.org)

# Profile

## Interview with Yuki Miyamoto *by* Shaza Loutfi

Having just returned from a conference on the recent 2011 Earthquake in Japan, Professor Yuki Miyamoto graciously spoke with me on her work concerning Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the correlating study abroad trip, and her opinion of Honors students.

Professor Miyamoto was born and raised in Japan, surrounded on all sides by remembrance of the atomic bomb. During school, most teachers were survivors of the bombing and other survivors would regularly come in to speak. Despite summer break, students were required to attend school on August 6th, the anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing. Her own mother was a survivor.

However, Miyamoto notes that, interestingly, “I never met anyone who blamed the U.S. or Truman. They either blame themselves, as part of their survivors’ guilt, or the Japanese government, since they started the war.”

It was this upbringing that caused Miyamoto’s desire to analyze and question the tragedy. She began to ask “What is the right thing to do?” in such situations where a government is telling you to “die for the emperor,” even when the result is so clearly undesirable.

This ethical questioning eventually led her to a faculty position in DePaul’s Religious Studies department and to coordinate a biennial study abroad trip to Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During this trip, the first two days are spent in Kyoto, an ancient capital, touring the Shinto temples. Next they spend a week in Hiroshima, and finally end up in Nagasaki for the last few days of the trip, listening to survivor’s accounts and meeting the people affected by these tragedies.

“Every time I go, I am not only moved by the survivors’ testimonies, but also by the transformation of the students,” Miyamoto stated, emphasizing that most students stop viewing the tragedy as simply an external event and an issue worthy of only sympathy. “It becomes their story as well.”

This effect is seen when the students return to Chicago and spontaneously organize fundraising or commemoration events. One recent event, called “Radiation Situation: Post Fallout Perspective,” featured an art exhibit the students held in collaboration with only three other professional artists. Miyamoto particularly remembers the Honors student Kelsey Hanslam, a Reserve Officers Training Corps who went on the study abroad program and returned to create and showcase a Mayors for Peace video at the art exhibit.

In regards to Honors students, Miyamoto has found that both regular and Honors students are serious about their work and good students. However, “the one difference is that Honors students are resilient, and I love that. They like to be challenged and they don’t back down or withdraw from a challenge. They can also challenge back, not for the sake of just challenging, but for the sake of better understanding.” Miyamoto said she admired this characteristic since she feels “it is an important skill in order to be a responsible citizen – you must question and articulate your beliefs.”

Overall, Miyamoto enjoys being a faculty member at DePaul, describing how she likes the way students are wholly involved in their lives, balancing both school involvement and outside involvement, all while managing to be happy. Her involvement in students’ lives also extends outside of just academic or intellectual involvement, and she loves the lasting relationships she has forged with DePaul students.

Yuki Miyamoto has authored the book *Beyond the Mushroom Cloud: Commemoration, Religion, and Responsibility after Hiroshima*. For more information on the Hiroshima and Nagasaki study abroad program and the application process, please contact the study abroad office.



# Exploration

## Biking Across the American Dream *by Beth Lewis*

Remember how Forrest Gump literally ran across America—from east coast to west coast? Sure, Forrest was a fictional character, but running across America?

Now that’s no piece of fiction.

A few months ago, a professor of mine invited a local music group to come in and perform their music for the class. After listening to these local musicians tell how they bike around the country to their gigs, I immediately grew inspired to bike across America. This idea appealed to me for three reasons: first, I have a huge passion for travelling to new places. Second, recently I bought a brand-new bike. Third, I love bike riding.

The main problem with wanting to travel is that I am a freshman in college; as a college undergraduate, my financial situation does not exactly match that of Donald Trump’s. Realizing I could travel to new places on my bike, however, provided me with intense motivation. I used my logic and thought to myself, “Why not bike across America? If others can do it, so can I!”

My excitement grew and later that night, I surfed the web for other people in the world who had biked far distances. The more and more I learned, the less and less impossible my idea became. I started texting my mom and friends, saying, “How would you feel if I were to bike across America?” and “Wanna take a biking road trip with me?” You can imagine the responses I got:

“You’re insane.”

“Go for it!”

“My parents wouldn’t let me bike that far.”

Since then, I have started my training to bike across America. So far my schedule includes one 18-mile ride on Sundays and several two-to-ten mile rides throughout the week. The stronger I grow, the better my endurance, so I am plan to increase those increments very soon.

One of the main motivations that helped me put this inspiration into practice is my desire for God. The past few months have held several struggles I’ve had to accept and deal with. Bike riding, however, has provided me with an appropriate release. During my rides, I spend much of my time talking to God and meditating on a different Bible verse each week. I’m pursuing my biking aspirations with my sights set on God and where it is He wants me to go. Bike riding helps me clear my mind of my earthly problems and allows me to focus on God and grow closer to Him.

I’ve also been inspired to use my bike journeys not only for my spiritual needs but also for another external purpose. I am in the process of using my cycling experiences as a way to spread the word about autism through a sharing of information about my friend’s non-profit organization called Growing Moore™, designed to educate and encourage families about the various ways of overcoming the challenges of autism as well as provide financially-struggling families with quality therapy. I have also decided to blog about my journeys and call my blog “FreeRider: God and Me.” My aim is to share at least one picture from each of my bike rides as well as my overall progress in my goal of biking across America as well as how I’m growing spiritually through my experiences. (Check it out at <http://bethepher.blogspot.com>.)

Sometimes in life, we get so caught up in our daily routines—we wake up, go to school or work, spend time with family or friends, eat, sleep, wake up... the routine is endless. What I love about bike riding, however, is the spontaneity it brings. If I feel like going for a ride, I hop on my bike and can go anywhere I want. I see faces that I didn’t see yesterday and the breezes feel different than they did last week. Let’s not settle for the world we think we know through a car or train window. Take a step outside and experience it for yourself. Remember—it isn’t about the destination we reach but the journey we take to get there.

# Exploration

## Let's Be Sad Today and Let It Be Okay *by Anna Nettie Hanson*

I recently saw a girl sitting in my class who looked positively downtrodden.

There is no other way to describe it. She wasn't crying and she wasn't making a scene—she was just sitting there being sad. Yet she looked immensely powerful in her sadness.

“How are you?” seems to fall out of our mouths without thought. We all respond to that question with something along the lines of “good” or “fine” regardless of how we really feel. Then, we make it worse by not really listening to what the other person says. If we're all lying, then why pay attention anyway?

That girl in class looked so honest wearing her pure emotion on her face, as if the emotions were born on her face, but she wasn't shoving it down and fighting it back like the rest of us. She just was as she was.

She didn't stay like that for long, for as the classroom filled I watched her put on her mask and respond with “fine” to that arbitrary question we all love to ask and ignore. The honesty vanished, and she was back to being just as she was expected to be, looking exactly how she was expected to look. It was as if she was ashamed of having emotion, of showing emotion.

It makes me sad to think about how often I hide how I'm feeling. I have tried, and failed to think of some reasons this masking would benefit anyone. I'm not saying you should tell people why you're sad but rather to just be honestly sad. Everyone else can deal with it— I'm pretty sure they have been sad before, too.

Must we paste smiles on our faces and rip them off like bandages when we're in private and prepared to feel something? DePaul is filled with happy people, but there are just as many unhappy people here as well. Based on personal experience, I have come to the conclusion that always hiding this unhappiness only makes it worse. Students, let each other be down once in a while without immediately starting a cross-examination. Teachers, treat an unhappy student the same way the bubbly personalities are treated.

There is no happiness without having knowledge of the feeling of sadness. I'm not afraid of feeling sad. Last time I checked, I was human. Some days are just not good. Some days, I think, are just meant to be sad. Sometimes you are just meant to feel. We practice not feeling so often that I think we forget how it works. How do you function while sad? I'm not referring to depression, but just a day or two of general sadness is healthy. With the rainy spring we've been having, I wouldn't be surprised if there are more secret gloomy faces than usual.

How can there be so many horrible things in this world and in our personal lives that we never allow ourselves to just set that sadness free on our faces?

So, answer the question “how are you?” honestly, you liars.

Let's just be sad today and let it be okay.

# Exploration

## *Big Fish: The Story, the Musical* by Theresa Bailey

Let me set the stage: it's early spring quarter and the item "see an off Broadway show" is still on my college-in-Chicago bucket list. My roommates tell me about how DePaul is selling ten-dollar tickets to see *Big Fish*. I hesitate. I hate leaving my dorm room most days. There is something neurotically comforting about a bowl of ramen, a bottle of Mountain Dew, and a British television show on Netflix.

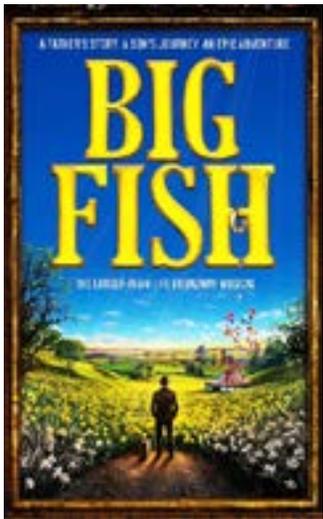
("Eat like a college student" and "finally watch *Doctor Who*"? Check and Check!) My roommates persist. Thank you, Michelle and Gabby, for dragging my butt out of the dorm. You two have helped me check "make friends who will be with you for your entire life" off the college bucket list. So I hand off ten dollars for a ticket, schedule away a Tuesday night, and prepare myself for a show.

Coincidentally enough, *Big Fish* has some historical ties to my life. I was a freshman in high school when I first watched the Tim Burton movie. The story is of an estranged father, Edward Bloom, and son, Will, who argue over fact and fiction. Edward tells tall tales about his life, while Will just wants to know what actually happened. This battle between the two stubborn men leads to their estrangement, which ends throughout the course of the story; William returns home as his father nears the end of a battle with terminal cancer. The musical retains most of the main details, but streamlines and eliminates some of Edward's stories.

The story is a captivating and touching one on film, and the transfer to stage simply elevates the emotional impact. Edward, played by two-time Tony winner Norbert Leo Butz, travels in time throughout the story, reenacting escapades from his youth. Quite pleasantly, Butz plays both the younger and older version of himself through a myriad of costume changes. Similarly, Tony nominee Kate Baldwin plays Sandra Bloom, Edward's eventual wife, at both ages. The talent of the cast is extremely deep, with seven Tony nominees and winners.

The cast is amazing, and the set design superb. Throughout the entire musical, a cerulean river runs in front on the stage. Projections color the stage so that one space can be both a small town square and the inside of a giant fish. The songs are lively and catchy, and the cast delivers each piece with beauty and intensity. The musical documents Edward's journey through life: having a witch show him how he would die at a young age, leaving home with a giant named Carl, seeing his true love for the first time, working at a circus, falling in love with Sandra, Will's birth, and other momentous occasions in his life. At the conclusion of the play, as Edward begins to succumb to the disease ravaging his body, there is not a dry eye in the audience. We have come to love this storyteller along with his no-nonsense "take life by the horns and live it" attitude.

Some musicals do well because they are catchy; think *Guys and Dolls* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Musicals that stick with you, however, have more substance. Not only are their musical scores beautiful, but they also connect to the audience in some deep emotional way (like the message of mortality in *Rent*). *Big Fish* makes a splash into the latter category, connecting to the audience about the human experience, the experience of love in a family, and the power of stories over all of us.



# City Life

## Get Outside this Spring *by Cynthia Stacy*

Spring has finally made an appearance in Chicago, and DePaul students are taking notice. Celebrate the gorgeous weather while it lasts!

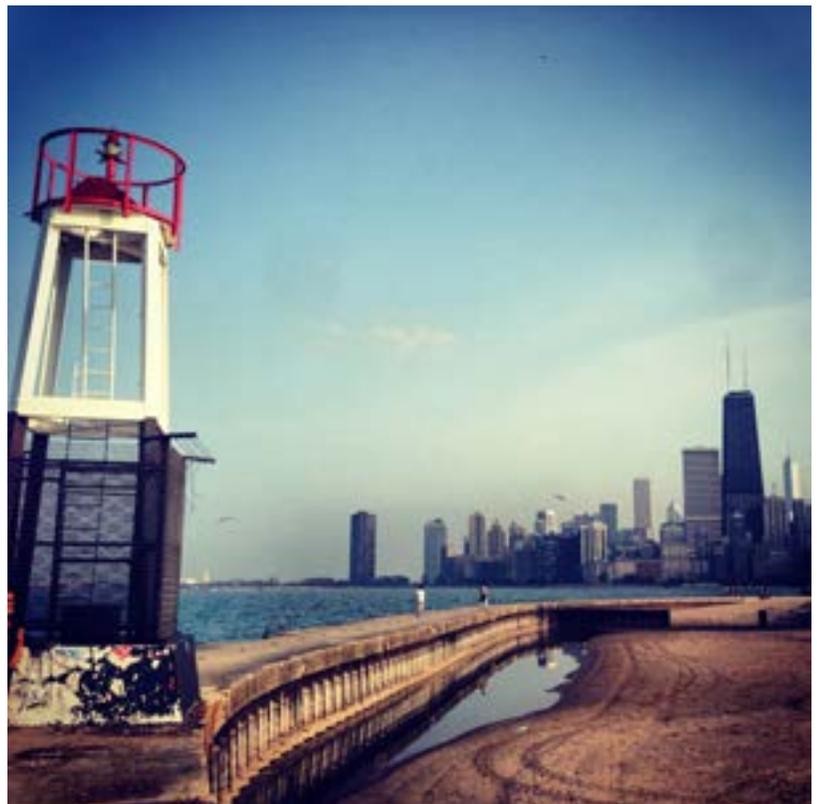
A great way to enjoy spring (and summer!) is to grab a bite to eat on an outside patio. My personal favorite spot is Bourgeois Pig's setup on 738 West Fullerton. The outside dining area is both cozy and refreshing. As a bonus, it's also a great location to people-watch! The Pig is just steps from campus, meaning you could take a short walk, grab a bite, and have your study-break outside.

Keep walking east on Fullerton and you'll (literally) stumble upon the beach. As the temperature increases, those relaxing beach naps will undoubtedly be part of many students' schedules. The days of beach volleyball, Frisbee, and swimming in the lake will be here soon. Set up a picnic on a not-so-windy day or take a run along the lakefront trails.

On a less recreational note, use the nice weather to your advantage and tour some neighborhoods. Students who plan to stay in Chicago for the summer or to move off-campus for next fall may have better luck finding vacant apartments while walking around instead of using an apartment finding website. Getting a feel for the area is certainly important in finding a safe and inviting place to live: get out there! And anyone you meet outside along the way will be able to vouch for his or her neighborhood. Google Maps is a great resource for figuring out how to get around, whether on foot, via public transportation, or on a bike!

In any event, the recent sunny weather is certainly welcome after such a long winter. Go outside and enjoy it!

*Photo by Alex Jewell*



# Darndest Things

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

"I'm all about that old testament."

"Don't call me babe, it's weird. I'm not a pig in the big city."

"He almost nasaled a burrito."

"We could make a shirt out of her body."

"Has anybody in here not heard of the Internet?"

"Daddy can't fix catty bitches."

"Wouldn't that be a great title for a TV show? 'Marx and Friends'?"

"I wish I could plug myself in sometimes."

"That moment in the quarter when you're so over the whole homework thing, but you keep doing it anyway...because you're an Honors student."

"I'm babysitting, I need to get drunk."

"Why should I get mad because you've made a life decision that I don't agree with?"

"I don't know why people complain about the Honors language requirement. I think it's a great idea!"

"She just looked deep fried."

"It's okay, he's a Republican."

"Hashtag Hannibal."

"You're kind of like a real person."

"It's not a big deal: you're a human, I'm a human. Let's just"

"Immerse yourself in feminist theory!"

"I like to think that being terrified is central to learning."

"I'm a romantic dude."

"Please do not put my bed in the shower."

"You're like a refined bro."

"You know what Hemingway said, don't you? 'Write drunk; edit sober.'"

# Creative License

## Between Wick and Wicker

If the blanket moves  
 I'll know it was you,  
 An unlit match across fabric,  
 Taunting the vents above  
 To carry us out.  
 If the parachute pulls,  
 Safely lands below,  
 I won't know who saved us,  
 But I'll light the lanterns,  
 Set them out to tides and mysteries,  
 And write letters to strangers;  
 "She's safe here, you must believe me."  
 Then when our hearts are in danger,  
 I'll remind you of free-falling;  
 I'll help you remember:  
 Joy lies in the moments of tiny embers,  
 Feeding delicate fire we've been handed,  
 And the flame catches  
 As long as we don't take it for granted;  
 Because you're safe here,  
 You just have to believe it.

## Tourism

Parking lots are usually the best or worst place to end up in love. You either find yourself in euphoric moments of lights overhead and darkness otherwise, exploring the catacombs of lust and grace, or you end up standing there, cold, angry, lost. In both cases, you wonder how you ended up there.

As the streets of a coastal tourist town swept its final lingerers out, as doors closed and cars slowly crawled further from the anti-reality they enjoyed for the better part of the day, I endured the pummeling heavy words of an emotionally complex individual. In my indifference, my thick silence, I existed as an organic construction of defeat. I did not feel human, nor did I feel dead, but somehow trapped in between states. Again, wondering how I ended up there.

The water lost its color and became a smoldering black mystery. The car was a prison and an escape, separating me from chaos with a cupholder and a silenced stereo, but letting me partake in the whole ordeal. Boats fell fast asleep in their beds of inanimate peace, observing, behind shut eyelids, tissue after tissue. Like tears, I was slow and still, yet emerging from tortured moments of human mishap.

They always say that the silence after the storm breeds content of substance.

And in the morning, when the beach swallowed us whole, I reminded myself that storms come and go, but beauty is a constant. You are beauty, but you were never constant.

*with* **Alex Jewell**

# The Road Ahead

## “You’re off to Great Places” *by* Ryan Zieman

After the last piece of confetti has fallen, the last champagne bottle popped, and the final graduation gift opened, there comes a time when a recent college graduate cannot relish in the momentous occasion any longer and must become one of Them. I must join the ranks of those people I have often called the “A” word, including my past professors, parents, and even friends. Yes, I will officially be an adult. Well, I would at least prefer young adult to capture my optimistic outlook in life and many roads untraveled. When I began to contemplate what to do after graduating from DePaul with my degree in hand, I took to heart the advice of an iconic author who profoundly stated:

*You have brains in your head.  
You have feet in your shoes  
You can steer yourself  
any direction you choose.  
You’re on your own. And you know what you know.  
And YOU are the guy who’ll decide where to go.*

The words of Dr. Seuss impacted my big decision when I chose to steer myself 4,000 miles east across the Atlantic. In the fall, I will be traveling to Madrid, Spain to start a new chapter of my life. There I will be teaching English as a second language to adult learners in Madrid’s corporate business sector via CIEE: the Council on International Educational Exchange. This unique ten-month program consists of full-time teaching, training in Corporate English Teaching Specialization (CETS), and international projects. In my free time I hope to be savoring tapas, sipping sangria, and enjoying the Spanish way of life as well as traveling Europe. About a year ago I began researching opportunities to teach English abroad in Spanish speaking countries specifically and discovered this niche program.

When I found the Teach in Spain: Professional Program, it appeared to be the perfect marriage of my two passions— business and Spanish. One of my most challenging goals abroad is to become fluent in Spanish. Throughout my academic career, I worked until I mastered the skills I was taught and have the same attitude about learning a foreign language. I have always been interested in the rich history, culture, and dialects of Spain. Throughout my time at DePaul, I sought opportunities to study abroad. With the First Year Abroad Program and University Ministry Service Immersion trips, I have traveled to and studied short-term in several countries in Latin America including Mexico, Colombia, and Ecuador. Living and working in Spain is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I have been preparing and yearning for throughout college.

In my future career, I would love to work abroad or for an international marketing agency where I can speak Spanish on a regular basis. Returning to the competitive job market in Chicago upon completion of the Teach in Spain program, my experience working in a corporate setting in Madrid will set me apart from other applicants to land my dream job. In the following few years, this unique experience abroad will help as I apply to NYU Stern to earn an MBA. Although it appears that I have my future all mapped out, I know that during this journey I will inevitably “get all hung up in a prickly perch” and be in a slump, yet I’ll somehow “find the bright places where Boom Bands are playing” Remember, if you ever doubt yourself and ask, “Will you succeed?” the answer is “Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and ¾ percent guaranteed.)”

## Post-Graduation Plans

A few of our other seniors have equally ambitious plans for after graduation! Check out what some of the Honors grads will be up to:

**Hector Diaz:** I actually graduated after the Winter Quarter; I am currently working at MarketAction Inc. based in Los Angeles, California, as the Director of Private Equity.

**Kasia Szymanska:** I will go on to do Teach for America in Indianapolis, teaching middle school social studies.

**Hattie Bertschausen:** After graduation I plan to go to law school at Michigan State University College of Law.

**Catherine “Cat” Hall:** I will be remaining in Chicago, continuing to study with Jane Bunnell and Elizabeth Byrne for private voice lessons, and this coming summer I will be singing with the Grant Park Chorus in the Grant Park Music Festival held at Millennium Park, as well as in the chorus of Verismo Opera Theatre’s La Traviata. In the fall I will also be singing with Cantate Chicago and the Da Corneto Opera Company. I am crossing my fingers for positive results from recent and upcoming auditions with Chicago Symphony Chorus, VOX 3 Collective, and Florentine Opera Company. I also plan to become a certified Group Fitness Instructor and volunteer at a community garden.

**Jennifer Anne Sepe:** I’ve accepted a job at PROrehab in St. Louis and plan to attend Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis Program in Physical Therapy in the Fall of 2014.

**Valentina Angelova:** I completed my undergraduate degree in Computer Science with a minor in French this past winter quarter. I am currently working full time as an application developer for Allstate Insurance in Northbrook. In the fall, I will be returning to DePaul to pursue a master’s degree in Software Engineering.

**Jillian Nolke:** Next year I will be teaching High School English through Teach for America in Milwaukee.

**Ashlyn Blythe:** In July, I will be going to Japan for a year participating in the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program as an Assistant Language Teacher teaching English to children. While in Japan, I hope to put my Japanese language skills to use by networking, building current and new connections, and putting together a portfolio/resume for working in the animation or gaming industry as a bridge between American and Japanese customs and cultures.

**Ashton Beck:** After graduation in June 2013. I will be attending John Marshall Law School in the fall to obtain my Juris Doctor degree.



“Bitterness never served any purpose  
than to embitter.”

*St. Vincent DePaul*