Honorable Mentions
fall.2013

A collaboration by DePaul University’s Honors Program

Transition.

Life is all about transition. Becoming a college student. Graduating from college. Leaving old friends behind and making new ones. Leaving one home and finding a new one. Honorable Mentions will be making a transition soon, too. We are saying goodbye to our co-editor Lisa Plachy, who graduates at the end of this quarter. We know she will be successful in anything she does in the future, and wish her the best of luck. We will miss her.

With that, we welcome our new co-editor, Emma Potter. You have big shoes to fill, Emma, but we know you’ll do a great job.
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Thanks to everyone who contributed!

Co-Editors: Alex Jewell, Lisa Plachy, and Emma Potter
Advisor: Jennifer Kosco
hsgnewsletter@gmail.com

Cover photo provided by Briana Briscoe.
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. 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
Honorable Mentions Wins AGAIN!

Following last year’s First Place Win in the same category, Honorable Mentions has won second place in the 2013 National Collegiate Honors Council Annual (NCHC) Newsletter Contest in the Student Published Electronic category. The Honorable Mentions’ co-editors, Alex Jewell (senior, CDM, Interactive Media) and Lisa Plachy (senior, CMN, Public Relations/Advertising) are responsible for all editing and layout of the newsletter. Each issue features content and material about various honors activities and events, awards, and general honors news, all contributed by Honors students. To see issues from the past academic year, go to: http://las.depaul.edu/honors/CurrentStudents/Newsletter/index.asp

The National Collegiate Honors Council (NCHC) is a national organization of honors programs and colleges from universities all over the country. NCHC is the professional association of undergraduate honors programs and colleges; honors directors and deans; and honors faculty, staff and students.

NCHC provides support for institutions and individuals developing, implementing, and expanding honors education through curriculum development, program assessment, teaching innovation, national and international study opportunities, internships, service and leadership development and mentored research.

Congratulations in Order for This Outstanding Honors Student

Senior American Studies major (and Honors Student Government President) Caelin Niehoff was recently named the 2013 Lincoln Academy Student Laureate by the Lincoln Academy. The committee recognizes one outstanding student from each participating university in Illinois. Caelin was recognized for her academic, co-curricular, and community service achievements, and as an example of the Vincentian mission at work!

Caelin received:

- The Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Medallion
- A certificate of achievement
- A monetary grant in the amount of $1,000
- Recognition at DePaul University’s Awards Banquet in June

She received her award on Saturday, November 2nd at the Academy Luncheon in the Executive Mansion in Springfield, hosted by Governor Pat Quinn. Congratulations to Caelin on this prestigious honor!

Honors Program graduates from the Class of 2011: Briana Briscoe (CMN), Angelika Piwowarczyk (LAS/ART) Saumbera Wiedenmannott (BUS), Jorie Grizzle (BUS), Claire Beiermeister (LAS), Megan Ashley (LAS) at the Alumni Weekend Reception at the Palmer House on Saturday, October 19th.
Home Isn’t Stable: Lessons from Jane Hamilton by Theresa Bailey

When my non-Honors Program friends at DePaul ask, “Why are you even in the Honors Program?” I usually have an arsenal of answers. “For the advising staff and super awesome teachers,” I say. And “I get to write for an award-winning newsletter.” When it’s near registration, I always answer, “Well, I get to register the first day, so that’s pretty great.” Lately, though, my answer has been, “I was able to attend a lecture by award-winning author Jane Hamilton, who had two of her books selected for Oprah’s book club. Oh, and then I was able to sit down with her and about ten other people, and we were able to ask this accomplished author questions. No biggie.”

That’s the glorious thing about the Honors Program—it provides some amazing opportunities, like meeting Ms. Hamilton and hearing her discuss writing. When she took the stage for her short lecture on October 11, I was struck by how human she was. She apologized for stumbling over a few of her words, saying, “I just had two Diet Pepsis, which for me is like being drunk.” After I read her novel, A Map of the World, I definitely didn’t expect this side of Hamilton; the book dealt with the death of a young girl, accusations of child abuse, the loss of home and the splintering marriage of two main characters. Hamilton’s lighthearted spontaneity and wit was vividly different from her darkly gorgeous, emotional prose. She continued her entire discussion continued with the same endearing sense of fun and humor, with laughter and smiles prevalent amongst the listeners. From the perspective of this English major, hearing Hamilton discuss her own stories provided an intimate look into the way she saw the world. And that world was, above all, fun.

The most profound moment for me occurred when Hamilton discussed her thoughts on the Honors Program theme for 2013-2014: “Searching for Home.” “Home isn’t stable,” Hamilton said, and she was right. As college students, I think we can all agree with that assessment. Whether it’s the first time you call your dorm room “home,” or the day you find yourself in your childhood house wishing you were back at “home” in Chicago, the concept of home constantly shifts. During the small group discussion, one student asked Hamilton to name her favorite books; Hamilton went into a long list of novels, and then turned the same question over to us. In that moment, each person who spoke about their favorite tome talked about their own kind of special home; as the old adage says, “Home is where the heart is,” and the manner in which everyone shared the books they loved spoke to a sort of home. Home isn’t stable—Hamilton is most certainly correct, but that isn’t necessarily a bad thing. The inconsistency of home allows us to grow and change, to experience new things, and to gather new people into our lives.

My answer as to the reason I’m a member of the DePaul Honors Program has shifted and changed since I first started. Like my definition of home, the answer isn’t completely stable. As for right now, though, the answer is this: the DePaul Honors Program is its own sort of home, where students are nurtured, guided, and told that whatever they might want to do, they can do it. That is the type of home—and in it, the type of people—that I want in my life.
One in 1,400: The Honors Team at the Heart Walk by Taylor Gillen

The warm sun, the vibrant blue lake, and the presence of friends combined to make a pleasant afternoon walk. But contributing to a cause made the walk even better. On Friday, September 27, approximately 1,400 teams of walkers descended on Grant Park to embark on the 2013 Metro Chicago Heart Walk to support the American Heart Association. This day was the culmination of fundraising efforts that raised more than 2.2 million dollars for the American Heart Association. According to the organization’s website, this money helped fund “179 current research projects totaling more than 23 million dollars in the Metro Chicago area,” data which proves that people truly can make a difference. As DePaul’s Vincentian values are at the core of the University, it is only natural that DePaul’s students and faculty would contribute a fair share to this event.

Twenty-three Honors Program students participated in the 2013 Heart Walk as part of a team. One, freshman Mallory Garrison, had a personal connection with the American Heart Association: “My dad had a heart attack recently,” Garrison said. “He is okay, but he did have to go through surgery. It inspired me to walk for other people who are dealing with heart problems.” Garrison’s father even made a donation to the 2013 Metro Walk, and the two of them have walked for causes in the past. Kat Ellinger, also a freshman, has had an even more personal experience. “I had a heart problem junior year of high school,” Ellinger stated. “I believe it is important to support organizations that help prevent and treat medical conditions.” Freshman Ben Wright had a different story: “I have always enjoyed walking, and I thought it would be great to do it for a cause.” Like Wright, this was my first Heart Walk.

Not all participants from the Honors Program were freshmen. Jill Theile, a sophomore, also completed the three-mile walk. Theile became involved with the Honors Program service committee her first year at DePaul, and is currently the co-chair. This is her first year in a leadership position in the Honors Program, and she is excited for the opportunity. “I like having responsibilities because I feel like I have a direct impact on the success of the committee,” Theile related. Part of her responsibilities as co-chair is to spread the word about events, and to get Honors Students involved with various volunteer opportunities like this.

DePaul’s teams made a substantial contribution to the fundraiser. The Honors Program raised 625 dollars, surpassing its goal of $500. However, Honors students were not the only ones that walked. There were eighteen teams from the University that participated in the walk, including Information Services, Women’s Network, School of Nursing, GSA, Office of Advancement, and the College of Law Student Organizations. With all these teams combined, 290 students, staff, and faculty participated in the Walk (which trumped the goal of 225). As a whole, DePaul raised $18,930, well over the initial goal of 15,000 dollars. The 2013 Metro Chicago Heart Walk was very successful, both for DePaul’s numerous teams and the not-for-profit organization as a whole.
Honors Events

Heart Walk Photos
Photos by Jennifer Kosco
Imagine seeing all walks of life coming together for one walk, for one cause. Think about people uniting with one thought in their minds: their loved ones and those who have lost their lives to a horrific disease that has killed nearly over 15,000 American citizens in the past three years. HIV/AIDS has become an epidemic across the globe; but together, people around the world are working to fight against it and spread awareness through fundraising, most recently through the local AIDS Run & Walk. Events like this around the country demonstrate the cause, a great experience, and a sign of change and hope.

This year the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago was held on September 28 at Soldier Field. Many individuals from a variety of organizations and universities lined up to participate and the DePaul Honors Program had the opportunity to join in as well.

After seeing the expressions of runners’ and walkers’ faces after they finally crossed the finish line, it was clear that even though they may have been fatigued, it was a worthwhile journey to support those who experience the agony of HIV/AIDS each day of their lives. Olivia Johnson, a second-year DePaul Honors student who ran in AIDS Run & Walk Chicago said, “I was happy to support the cause for HIV/AIDS. I was inspired by the great turnout. I wouldn’t mind doing this every year.” Johnson also felt that the tranquil scenery of Lake Shore Drive contributed a special sense of motivation to keep herself and others going in the race.

The AIDS Run & Walk Chicago was an event that signified hope and change and showed that people should no longer fear being positive or open about who they really are. At the AIDS Run & Walk Chicago, there was diversity on all realms, from orientations to physical abilities, as people from all walks of life came together for one walk, for one cause that will influence the lives of many.
Hoopla on the Quad by Shaza Loutfi

If you are ever in the quad on a nice day, there is a good chance you’ll spot a few girls hula hooping. It is not the more common hula hooping you may be familiar with, but a much more developed, complex, and enjoyable form of art. These girls are DePaul’s new Hoop Troupe. The new club started this year when Honors Program student Claire McDonal, and her friends Mia Dubinets and Alexis Keily wanted to “hoop” at the Ray but were not allowed to book a room without an organization.

Since its beginning, the club has attracted more than 20 members this quarter alone and shows signs of growing even more rapidly. “It’s pretty exciting,” McDonal conceded. She said she was first introduced to hooping at a music festival and then began watching YouTube tutorial videos to pick it up.

Visually similar to some kinds of dances, this form of hooping involves hula hooping with different body parts, as well as jumping in and out of the hoop, twirling and essentially “dancing” with the hoop. There is an abundance of examples all over YouTube that showcase different styles, new tricks, and a host of other individualized techniques that take hula hooping to a whole other level. Additionally, many hoopers will decorate their hoops with different colors, ribbons, or even make it glow to create an elaborate display in the dark.

However, there does seem to be a lack of male interest. “We are trying to recruit guys too. A lot of guys will use double hoops and their style is very different, but very cool,” McDonal said.

Nevertheless, whether at DePaul or in the general public, this new art is gaining popularity. Fairly easy to learn and beautiful to perform, most agree it is here to stay.

If you are interested in learning more, email depaulhooptroupe@gmail.com or find them on Facebook.
Act Out: Exposure to a Life in Drag by Taylor Gillen

In 2003, DePaul University created the office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Queer and Ally (LGBTQA) Student Services to provide educational workshops, advising and consultation, the Safe Zone Program, and more. One of these services is Act Out, an activist group that aims to spread awareness and acceptance of people of all sexual orientations and identities. The current leaders of Act Out are juniors Matthew von Nida and Jess Rehs. I have had the pleasure of acquainting myself with Act Out during my first quarter here at DePaul.

Two lesbian women have raised me, so I have been exposed to different identities and sexual orientations early on. Because of my unique domestic life, I grew up with a relatively strong understanding of different sexual orientations and identities. Nevertheless, until recently, I have been fairly ignorant about drag queens. At one Act Out meeting in September, we had a special guest come to speak to us about this unique lifestyle.

Joe Marnen graduated from DePaul University in 2012 with a degree in Industrial Organizational Psychology. During the week, he has a full-time job, but on the weekends, he is a drag queen with the stage name “Ivana Tease.” While at DePaul, he participated in the University’s “What A Drag” event. From there, Marnen learned more about the culture of the drag world, and he was inspired to do more. He cites the Stonewall Riots as especially influential to him, along with some friends that began immersing themselves in the industry at the time.

Common stereotypes make the public see drag queens as overly feminine. For many, including Marnen, the contrary is true: he says that he is “very masculine in daily life.” On the flip side, Ivana Tease is “seductive, flirty, and has dark glamour.” Marnen feels that his alter ego really emerges when the lashes and lipstick are on his face. “Ivana can be all the things Joe can’t be, and that is one reason why drag is great. It also helps Joe learn how to be a better
person, because Ivana doesn’t take s***, and that can help Joe stand up to people. Being a drag queen can help open up new facets to your personality.”

Being a drag queen is no small endeavor. In fact, very few achieve national popularity. RuPaul’s Drag Race is the impetus that made the drag industry somewhat mainstream (Lady Gaga and Cher have also featured drag queens in their music and interviews), but many drag queens still struggle to arise from the underground culture of America. “There are plenty of local drag queens that are not well known and work their butts off,” Marnen says. “Drag is not cheap. I probably have thousands of dollars worth of make-up. So if you go to a drag show and you like it, tip the drag queens.” Indeed, like other areas of show business, most achieve notoriety by fortuitous means. Until then, drag queens have to try really hard: “It is about who you know and motivation and getting yourself out there, actively seeking bookings,” Marnen noted.

For many, drag families are the fulcrum that emerging drag queens need for balance and support. Although there is a strong sense of community among those that are active drag queens, Marnen says, “If you are new, you are not respected as an artist yet. You can encounter lots of hostility.” Therefore, drag families help new artists get acquainted with everything. A drag mother is someone that bestows knowledge of how to be a drag queen to drag daughters, the ones that they look after. A drag sister is a peer that one shares a close bond with, and has approximately the same level of experience.

When asked about Marnen’s future aspirations, he reported: “Everyone would like notoriety. I would like to do a cooking show and have consistent bookings. I have a full-time job, so drag probably would never replace that. I will keep doing drag as long as it is fun.” Marnen especially enjoys the creative side of drag, such as doing photo shoots and web series. I also asked him about his hopes for the future with regards to the view of the general public on the drag industry. He told me, “It has become more mainstream and accepted with RuPaul’s Drag Race, but I would like to see drag go beyond that. I would like it to become something that is not just something people see on the national level but also locally.”

I myself have a sanguine vision of the future, although it is broader. I wish to see our culture fully accept the LGBTQA community. I understand that much progress has been made in recent years, but an immense amount of disparity remains between accepting groups and, conversely, inimical factions of our diverse population. I realize that time is the best weapon to conquer discrimination and inequality, and that social change is gradual.

With the rapid advance of technology in our daily lives, people can now be exposed to new ideas and customs from any nation or domestic subculture. You can keep up-to-date with Ivana Tease through Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. Of course, you can also attend a drag show sanctioned by DePaul this coming May. Matthew von Nida and Jess Rehs are already planning the event, and hope to incorporate an educational workshop to promote awareness about the numerous terms that are associated with the LGBTQA community. It is also rumored that Joe Marnen may host it. Fingers crossed!
On a cold October afternoon, author Fern Schumer Chapman warmed the hearts of the Writing at the Grassroots in Chicago HON 110 students with stories of her mother’s journey to overcome the devastating effects of the Holocaust.

When she was only twelve-years old, Chapman’s mother Edith Westerfeld was sent to America and away from everything she knew and loved for a better life away from the effects of the Nazis. But for Chapman’s mother, post-traumatic stress disorder hindered her ability to realize her parents were trying to save her life. Chapman grew up knowing her mother’s past was off-limits and as a result, felt like she had no identity because her mother was a stranger. Out of the blue, Chapman’s mother told her daughter (who was five months pregnant at the time) that she was ready to go home. In her novel, *Motherland: Beyond the Holocaust: A Mother-Daughter Journey to Reclaim the Past*, Chapman tells the story of her and her mother’s journey back to Germany.

My Discover Chicago class was not only lucky enough to study *Motherland*, but also fortunate enough to have Fern Schumer Chapman visit our class. Stories spilled from Chapman’s lips and fell on eager ears. Professor Ann Stanford had brought authors into the class before, but Chapman’s visit had a completely different dynamic. The focus of the lecture was surprisingly not *Motherland*, but the amazing chain of events that happened after the book ended. My peers and I sat on the edge of our seats as we listened to Chapman share the story behind her second book, *Is it Day or Night?*
Chapman had done immense research to fully understand her mother’s story, but was having difficulty finding out how her mother was able to immigrate to America in the first place. One day, the author received an email from a reader of *Motherland* informing her that they could help her. Chapman’s eyes were opened to the One Thousand Children project, a very small organization that helped save around 1,200 children from the Holocaust. She quickly realized that this facet of the story needed to be told, so she started her next project: *Is it Day or Night?* Upon informing her mother of her latest creative endeavor, Edith eagerly asked her to include Gerda Katz in the story. Chapman had no idea what her mother was talking about—and suddenly, the past started to pour out.

Chapman showed us a video about the incredible story of her second novel, which was featured on Oprah Winfrey’s Lost and Found. Gerda was Edith’s best friend on the boat to America, who was also fleeing the Nazis with the help of One Thousand Children. Upon arriving in the U.S., the girls were separated with no means to stay in touch. When Chapman later visited a middle school class in Naperville that read *Is it Day or Night?*, those students would not accept that the best friends had remained separated and after days of research, the students found Gerda Katz. In my classroom, there was not a dry eye as we watched the reunion of the two lost friends who found each other after more than 70 years of being separated.

After the video, our class was able to ask Chapman questions. Every single student had something to ask her, and she was eager to share the incredible story. As corny as it sounds, Fern Schumer Chapman taught us that nothing is impossible. Gerda and Edith were separated for so long that it seemed very probable that Gerda wasn’t even alive. Our class also learned the importance of looking into the past without being lost within it. Chapman knew absolutely nothing of her mother’s past, whose fear of the past dictated her life. Together, the mother-daughter duo was able to start the healing process together. My Discover Class was lucky enough to learn from their story and apply what we learned to our understanding of our past and legacy as DePaul University students.

*Photo credit: Jennifer Kosco*
DePaul Honors Freshmen and Their Chicago Quarter by Anneliese Girson

As the fall quarter nears its end, DePaul’s Honors Program freshmen have a lot to talk about, especially when it comes to their Chicago Quarter classes.

The Chicago Quarter class for freshmen is a mandatory class that gives new students the opportunity to learn about their new environment through a variety of different concentrations. Through Chicago Quarter instruction, students learn how to navigate the various aspects of the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and they become more acquainted with the neighborhoods in and around the city.

There are two different categories of Chicago Quarter classes: Discover Chicago and Explore Chicago. Capped at 22 students, Discover Chicago classes begin a week before regular classes with an immersion week. During this week, the students are guided around the city by their teachers and mentors and shown various aspects of the city through the lens of their class topic. Explore Chicago students start the week of regular classes and do excursions throughout the quarter. As part of the Chicago Quarter class, students also learn about DePaul and the resources available to them during a Common Hour each session.

Honors students can choose from a wide array of Chicago Quarter classes, ranging in topics from Frank Lloyd Wright, taught by History of Art & Architecture professor Cheryl Bachand; to Chicago’s Urban Agriculture, taught by Public Policy Studies professor Hugh Bartling.

These Honors-level courses are different from the Liberal Arts & Sciences courses in that they offer a more intensive class with thoughtful discussion regarding the topic. Students are expected to do reflections on each of the excursions as well as participate in deep discussions with their classmates.

Students in Professor Melissa Markley’s Discover class “The Business of Helping: Not-for-Profits in Chicago” shared their thoughts about the Chicago Quarter and their class:

When asked whether or not the Chicago Quarter helped to broaden his knowledge of Chicago and its neighborhoods, Sam Anderson only could respond positively. His Discover class, led by Professor Markley, ventured into some of Chicago’s most diverse neighborhoods, including Uptown, Humboldt Park, and Jackson Park. Nick Teetsov, another student of Professor Markley’s class, highly recommend the Chicago Quarter program and his class to prospective students who are choosing between DePaul and another school. Samantha Miker, Honors student, believes that, “[The Chicago Quarter] is one of the things that makes DePaul unique compared to other schools.”

Ask any DePaul student what they miss about freshman year and many will cite their Discover or Explore Chicago class. These classes helped students form impressions of Chicago and view their new city in a positive light. By working cohesively with their peers and navigating their way through Chicago, DePaul freshmen get a glimpse of their new home and a snippet of what their next four years will be like.
HON110 Pictures
Photos by Jennifer Kosco
Profile: Dr. Ann Stanford by Megan Pietz

If you were to try to track down Dr. Ann Stanford at any given moment, you probably wouldn’t find her somewhere typical like her office or class. In fact, it would be more plausible she was at a poetry slam or even the Cook County Jail.

Dr. Stanford took quite the path to get to these places. Growing up Winter Park, Florida, she attended Florida State University and Hollins College in Roanoke, Virginia for her undergraduate degree. After receiving her PhD and MA in 1990 from the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Stanford began her work at DePaul. Even more impressive, Dr. Stanford received her MFA from the Warren Wilson Low Residency program, one that has produced writers that have been featured in the New Yorker and The New York Times Book Review.

Specifically, the School of New Learning (SNL) has been Dr. Stanford’s DePaul home for 23 years. “I’ve been doing a lot of academic administration work: designing curricula, running programs, and was an associate dean twice,” says Stanford.

Recently, she decided to transition back to full-time teaching and is very excited. “I teach adults at SNL and have found that the same principles I use in the adult classroom transfer well to the young adult classroom. Students—older or younger—bring their lives and histories to learning, and that experience should be acknowledged, mined, and integrated into that magnificent enterprise of creating knowledge that goes on in a learning community.”

Luckily, Dr. Rose Spalding approached Dr. Stanford to create a Discover Chicago course for the Honors Program. “I said yes because I’ve enjoyed teaching honors students so much in the past.”

Dr. Stanford teaches “Writing at the Grassroots in Chicago: Exploring the Voices and Visions of Ordinary Chicagoans.” While engaging her class in creative and reflective writing, they have been able to attend poetry slams, a Young Chicago Authors event, and experience Chicago
Profile

through a writer’s lens.

She elaborates: “The Discover Chicago is top notch because the professor has a chance to engage the students outside the classroom and to nurture a learning community that happens a little more quickly and intensely than when learning is restricted mostly to a classroom. I love seeing the looks on students’ faces as they observed and participated in completely new experiences in neighborhoods that were also new and sometimes freighted with negative stereotypes. It’s great fun to watch intellectual and emotional awakenings.”

When asked what differences there are between teaching adult and younger students, Dr. Stanford says that amount of experience makes a slight difference. But, she notes, “Every student has experiences that can be brought to bear on learning. I have to say that I love the energy younger students have!”

Though Dr. Stanford spends a lot of time in the classroom, she also is involved in various other aspects of DePaul. She just stepped down as president of the DePaul chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, a prestigious academic honors society. As well, she was very active in the DePaul-El Salvador Project in the 1990s.

Dr. Stanford even connected her DePaul work to the outside world when she founded the DePaul Women, Writing & Incarceration program after facilitating a poetry discussion for Division 4, the women’s division at the Cook Country Department of Corrections, for ten years. Though the program is currently on hiatus, in the past, students would discuss issues surrounding incarceration, especially in regards to women, and then learn how to facilitate writing groups. They would go in teams to various jails, prisons, and post-incarceration facilities throughout the state to work. She details, “Each group created anthologies of the women’s writing and presented one to each writer at the end of the six-week writing session.”

Even with all of this great work, Dr. Stanford and her partner still find time to travel, garden, and spend time with her grandchildren. A voracious reader, Stanford is usually reading two to three books at the same time. Dr. Stanford is currently working on a novel as well. “The main character, a young woman who is from a clergy family and struggling with her emerging lesbianism in the 60s, just sort of arrived to me one evening many years ago. I couldn’t get her voice out of my head, even though I was working on poems, so I just let her talk, and more and more emerged as I wrote.”

Though it seems as if Dr. Stanford has dedicated herself to work she is incredibly passionate about, she still finds time to push herself even farther within her writing career. “It’s taken a long time because, even though her voice is still there, I’m left to work out the craft. This issues a challenge since my training and past creative work has all been in poetry. And just because good writing is a challenge, period.”

Dr. Stanford is a valuable addition to the faculty that has graciously spent their time and efforts working with the DePaul Honors Program. A truly fascinating person, she’s one to look out for at DePaul—if you can find her.
When I mention that I live in downtown Chicago, there are two questions that I get asked almost every time about its availability and affordability. How on Earth would a downtown apartment unit be on the market in the first place? And how is it possible for someone in college to afford such an apartment? These two elements—availability and affordability—came perfectly together for me through a lucky opportunity and a smart choice.

My apartment is part of the Parkshore building that is one of the many high-rises in the New East Side neighborhood. These modern (only 15-30 years old) buildings were valuable but unfortunately intertwined with the housing bubble of 2007. Cue my smart choice and lucky opportunity.

As the bubble was gaining steam, many of the units in these buildings were bought as a form of equity by people who had no intent of living in them. They were originally bought for their apparent market value, which declined rapidly with the bubble burst. Later, either the units in the entire building were sold for a loss or disregarded altogether. So my unit that rented for $3500/month pre-bubble dropped over $1200/month in value after the bubble. Then, by splitting that lowered rate between four people (read: my smart choice), my unit became affordable for a college student like myself.

All that is fine and dandy, but if not for being extremely lucky, I would not be living where I am. While I was apartment searching last spring, I noticed a post on the DePaul 2014 Facebook page asking for a roommate for a downtown apartment. The actual unit was bought by a family friend of the poster as he was finishing high school, and is a two bedroom unit split between four people. The family friend bought the lease to the unit after it had been abandoned for two years, and thus the cost of the lease was below market value like I described earlier. So not only was I lucky in finding a listing for a downtown apartment through Facebook, but I was also lucky in that this listing was for a perfectly fine unit that was bought far below market value.

So while I was extremely fortunate, there are a few takeaways from my situation beyond luck. The first: never judge a book by its cover, because I certainly would never expect a unit downtown to have rent comparable to an apartment in Lincoln Park. The second: be open-minded as far as your decision-making process is concerned. Four people in a two bedroom apartment was not at all what I was looking for, but I know that I would be missing out on a great situation if I had not considered the Parkshore as a place to live.
Guess Where This Is? by Gianna Sutley

Flamingo, constructed by Alexander Calder which is found in the Federal Plaza in the Loop at approximately 50 West Adams St.
The Privilege of Learning by Anna Nettie Hanson

I am spoiled by my education. So spoiled by this education, in fact, that it’s hard for me to even comprehend just how spoiled I am. If you are reading this, then I bet that you are, too. Sure, “fortunate” would be a kinder term than “spoiled,” but I like the connotations of spoiled for its negative twinge. I say that I am spoiled by my education not because I have a bad attitude or because I am not grateful, but because I forget just how fortunate I am. In this forgetfulness exists the negative twinge.

Anyone who can read this is fortunate. I forget this.

This topic came to mind recently as I was writing one of my million to-do lists for an evening’s homework session. I had three midterms in the week, so I allowed normal Anna to transform into a ghostly entanglement of papers and fear. That was the week that the jeans were traded for sweatpants, the morning orange juice was exchanged for extra strength coffee, and makeup and showering became thoughts of the past. This was the week in which I forgot how to converse with others without complaining about my midterms.

I was not alone in this. Proclamations ranging from “I hate school” to “It’s a joke that they expect us to learn so much,” from “(Expletive) this. No way I can learn this” to “Kill me” bounce around in the nervous buzz of student energy. I’m not saying that these exclamations are wrong or that people should stop saying such things, but I discovered a solution to the immediate complaint: gratefulness.

Before your eyes roll into your very full brains, allow me to plead my case. This simple idea separates you from the stress coursing through your veins during midterms and finals. This separation allowed me to breathe. We get to go to school. We get to go to DePaul.

I dare you to take my new philosophy a step further in suggesting a change in vocabulary. “I have to study,” the anthem of those familiar busy days, should be reevaluated. Studying is a choice: nobody is being forced to do it. Using the terminology of “have to” creates a sense of lack of control, enabling the stress of studying to determine your actions and emotions. Am I exaggerating? Of course— but try replacing the “have to” sentiment we so often associate with learning with that of acknowledging a choice being made.

I choose to study and take midterms and finals, just as we all do. We are in college, learning and preparing for the rest of our lives, and it is time that we get to take credit for our choices and appreciate the fact that we have the opportunity to make them. Many people on this planet do not.

I am grateful to be able to sit down for my midterm exam, hands quivering while my lungs forget how to breathe. I am privileged to even sit in this classroom, surrounded by brilliant people, at this incredible school. I am privileged to learn, and so are you.

We have been given to opportunity to choose to learn. It’s time to recognize it.
Don’t Be Young and Carefree by Lisa Plachy

Many college-aged “young adults” often find themselves in a wondrous period of their lives in which consequences seem unreal and far-fetched. Money doesn’t run out, and if it does, parents step in. Majors are undeclared or changed. Jobs are temporary. It’s easy to remain delusional that this is adult life.

Who you become in this period greatly affects the rest of your life—consequences, if you will. College life is impermanent and thus a reasonable place to experiment. And what a privilege it is to be able to experiment with our young, elastic selves when we always bounce back. Our bodies recover after weekend wreckage. Our affections find another host. Our minds pull through tests despite exhaustion.

Adulthood stems from this experimentation. It hides in the weekdays, in the early mornings, in the headaches, heartaches, shame and pride. It lurks underneath indecision and temporality. It is your responsibility, as a young adult (who will soon lose the “young”) to discover yourself in this process and learn to cope with how others accept this self.

Adulthood is sneaky. At times, it’s a very tangible, very large bill at the end of the month or the end of the night. Other times, it might be a foreboding emptiness ahead of a long period of indecision, like that moment when graduation looms and you have absolutely no idea what the hell you’re going to do. But you will get through adulthood and even enjoy it, when you know yourself.

We are young and unattached. We are lucky if we have a home base of family and friends but we are typically only responsible for ourselves. Own that and take this time to figure out who that self is. But be wary—just as you are responsible for your own self-identity, you are responsible for navigating it in a world that may reject it, herald it, or make it really damn difficult.

Be yourself. Make the decisions you want to make. But think about where those decisions stem from. If you decide you’ll figure out your career later, know that graduation might be stressful and that any job you apply to will ask why you want to work there. Stay out too late. Stay in tonight. Weigh your options. Decide the consequences and deal with the repercussions of each one. Option A, it might be a rough morning. Option B, you might miss out on something incredible. But decide with a vengeance.

When you decide who you are and accept it, life becomes as easy as it will be. That is to say, life isn’t easy and oftentimes isn’t. But having a sense of what you want from it certainly makes it less daunting. It will allow you to order a drink with confidence, get what you need from your therapist, and/or carve out a place in the universe where you’re comfortable enough to live for as long as you can.

Don’t use youth as an excuse to be carefree. Care very much. Care for your friends, your family, your significant other, your career, your body, your education. But care in the way that resonates most with you. If it is not worth your energy to get a degree, care enough to face every person that will disagree with you and care to make something of yourself without it. If you don’t care about how much you drink, care very much for the friends that take care of you and get you home safely. If you don’t care about your appearance, care very much about the persona you exude.

Society will always have rules. And if you don’t care about rules, care very much about avoiding the enforcers or about establishing your own society on an island where no one can enforce them. These rules might be outdated, unnecessary, unfair, uncivil, immoral or perhaps quite necessary, and unspoken in every field. But when you know yourself to the core, you’ll know which ones are worth fighting for and against and why you should or should not follow them.

Adulthood isn’t about age. It’s about consequences—and living as and loving the self you decide to be.
One Night Before Fall

The sidewalk smells like soy sauce,
As if Clark Street had been entirely tasteless
And we were unable to swallow
The empty exchanges of condiments and appetizers.
So it’s the weekend in retreat
From the stench of a sour week,
Sipping from bottles of tension
In front of the Wiener Circle;
Sodium, grainy,
Drying out gums and throat;
I recall advice from a man
I have never known:
Be weary, it isn’t for long you’ll glow
Under Saturday night street lamps,
Or scoff at girls from fantasy Maybeline lands
Never traversed by tired sneakers
In dorm closets
Not fit for academic servants
Or the served alike.
We glow like lightning bugs,
Speak like gravel into valedictorian mics,
And litter newsletter covers like paper celebrities,
Submersing ourselves in pools of dipping sauces
Paired by renowned chefs;
Sung to by choirs of trembling angels.
I recall advice, pages of it,
Handwritten lest it be overlooked;
Sidewalk graffiti carries me home.

Monumental, Pillow

A cliff carries atmosphere from lungs, unworthy,
to groundless ears beneath. An entire world, flat,
can only carry so much breath. Pigeons strut in
circles around the columns of civilizations past,
holding swaying ceilings above nodding heads. We
are born with lungs to feed hungry vocal chords,
hearts to supply blood to reverberating brain
cells. In moments of synapse, we electrocute the
mediocre, expunge the mundane, ignite thought
unrivaled. Mountains of cement and rebar, vacant
of flags or conquerers’ bootprints, stand solidly
in loving memory of humanity. We are our own
Everest; we are our own stifling force, scared of
flame or ash. "Burn it down," the homeless mumble
under tattered comforters, "Burn it down!" The
mourners instruct the willing; "Burn it down,
burn it down, burn it down," the artists repeat in
chorus, desperate to start anew. We were born with
a flame to quench, an internal pilot light only our
own blowing can darken. Stack the kindling, keep
watch, and let your legs dangle over the edge, let
your shoe laces hang a little.
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 can barely afford to feed myself.
- Don’t hate the player; hate the game.
- I never let reality get in the way of my fantasies.
- Education makes you liberal.
- Who needs stupid friends?
- Oh, you’re supposed to actually read the emails they send us??
- The faster we get through this the faster we can drink.
- She doesn’t deserve our heads.
- All Irish people are descended from leprechauns.
- I sort of live in the darkness.
- Sugar mamas are hard to find.
- You’re braver than you give yourself credit for.
- It’s the honors in you.
- I just want to day drink.
- We should all just give up right now.
- That’s my professional voice.
- I just don’t have time for dicks today.
- Learning is stupid.
- I want to marry these pancakes.
- It’s a legit app for legit people but I’m not legit.
“It seems to me that your leadership improves every day and is producing additional results.”

*St. Vincent DePaul*