Urban Studies

*DePaul University*  
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

*IN THIS ISSUE*

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DePaul’s new strategic plan, “Grounded in Mission,” recognizes six strategic priorities. The first priority in that list—to deepen our commitment to DePaul’s Catholic, Vincentian and urban mission—is at the heart of everything we do in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (LAS). We house a vibrant Department of Catholic Studies that contributes broadly to the university-wide Liberal Studies Program, as well as the Center for World Catholicism & Intercultural Theology. Our Department of Religious Studies—in alliance with our Center for Religion, Culture and Community—likewise embraces our Vincentian heritage through a commitment to religious pluralism and community-engaged teaching and service. Across the college, our many and diverse departments, programs, centers and institutes are at the vanguard of addressing the university’s core values.

I am thrilled to announce that, thanks to a generous endowment raised by DePaul’s Board of Trustees in honor of our former president, the Rev. Dennis H. Holtschneider, C.M., we have a further opportunity to enhance our college’s commitment to DePaul’s Vincentian culture and mission. In the fall, we will welcome Matthieu Brejon de Lavergnée, a rising lay scholar within the field of Vincentian studies, as the Catholic Studies Department’s first Holtschneider Chair in Vincentian Studies. Brejon de Lavergnée currently holds the position of Professor of Modern History at the Sorbonne University in Paris, where he also received his PhD. We are proud to welcome him to our college and eager to embark with him on this exciting new phase in our Vincentian history.

Finally, the third component of DePaul’s first strategic priority—to foster sustained engagement with all that is fundamentally urban—is also central to our college’s ethos. This issue of Insights celebrates the many ways in which we cultivate the study of cities. Our long and distinguished track record of service learning has made us an integral part of the city of Chicago and growing global urban culture. And we are happy to highlight another new venture in this arena—a collaborative cluster of programs that engage with all that is urban. This affinity group of faculty-scholars and centers includes our School of Public Service; our Departments of Social Work, Public Health, Public Policy Studies, Sociology, and Geography; our Programs in Criminology, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, and Sustainable Urban Development; and our Center for Community Health Equity and the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development.

In the past I have remarked on the special power of liberal arts and social sciences to “connect the dots,” to help us gain deeper understanding of the complexity in which we, and our communities, are immersed. Our cities are multifaceted environments whose challenges demand multidisciplinary perspectives and expertise. DePaul University and LAS are uniquely positioned to provide that perspective and to offer that expertise. We are also deeply privileged to live in a city from which we can learn so much, and in which we can serve others to foster the common good. We know that our alumni make use of these perspectives every day, and we would love to hear from you. Please be in touch with us to share your stories and reflections. How has your time at DePaul and LAS opened your understanding of the urban world in which we live? Let us know! Write us at LASMedia@DePaul.edu.

May the Liberal Arts be with you!

Guillermo
MEET THE NEW ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

“DePaul is an incredibly meaningful place in my life. In serving on the Advisory Board, I hope to be able to give back to the school by helping more students access the education that shaped me into who I am today.” -Ray Sendejas (Political Science ’96)

Ray Sendejas is an assistant director in the health care team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office in Washington, D.C., a legislative branch federal agency performing research and investigations for Congress.

“Providing input and guidance to support up-and-coming DePaul leaders is important. As a Double Demon, I believe in the mission of St. Vincent dePaul and I try to give back to the DePaul community and do what I can for those in need.” -Collin Sasser (BS CDM ’02, MS Leadership and Policy Studies ’14)

Collin Sasser, an information technology manager at Rush University Medical Center, has extensive experience in the financial, nonprofit, academic and health care sectors.

“DePaul made an impact on me from the moment I stepped foot on campus and continues to do so. I hope to contribute to the future success of the university by positively impacting the alumni community, current students and those considering DePaul.” -Kyle DeGiulio (Political Science ’08)

Kyle DeGiulio is vice president of business development for London & Partners, the official promotional and economic development agency for the Mayor of London.

“DePaul has been instrumental in my own personal and professional development and success, so it’s extremely important for me to offer anything I can back to the DePaul community and the future leaders that will come from this great institution.” -Annie Miskewitch (English ’00, MA Writing ’03)

Annie Miskewitch is the deputy director of the Schaumburg Township District Library. She has been working with public libraries for nearly 25 years.

“The education and experiences I received at DePaul helped mold me to be the lawyer, civic leader and person that I am today. I want to ensure that DePaul, and specifically LAS, has the resources, support and vision to continue its critical mission.” -Ryan Dunigan (Public Policy ’08)

Ryan Dunigan, a litigation associate at Winston & Strawn in Chicago, has represented a number of Fortune 500 companies in the technology, insurance and banking industries in complex contractual disputes.

“DePaul and the LAS program were so important to me at a formative time in my life. LAS really opened my eyes to new ways of thinking, analyzing problems and engaging with a diverse and complex world. It was an honor to be asked to serve on the Advisory Board helping to shape the future of this critical program that has been a strong foundation for my life and career.” -Kristi Lafleur (Political Science ’99)

Kristi Lafleur is president and CEO of Ascend Infrastructure and former executive director of the Illinois Tollway and deputy treasurer and COO of the City of Chicago.
Connecting the Dots

LAS’s new Urban Studies cluster gives students the experiential, multidisciplinary foundation they need to succeed in a complex world.

Senior Matt D’Onofrio knew he wanted to study public policy at DePaul, but after taking some geography electives, he found a deeper understanding of how social problems could be viewed through a spatial and environmental lens.

“Social and economic justice are important, but seeing how the city operates as a system contributing to climate change also allows me to examine environmental justice and how that ties into the larger picture,” he says.

D’Onofrio is one of a growing number of LAS students who have at their disposal a new Urban Studies cluster at DePaul that includes six graduate programs (Public Health, Social Work, Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, Public Service, Sociology and Sustainable Urban Development); four undergraduate programs (Community Service Studies, Criminology, Public Policy Studies and Sociology); and two centers (Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development and Center for Community Health Equity).

“For many, the city is made out of brick and mortar. From our perspective, the city is much more than a cluster of buildings. The city is made out of people who build with their cultural, social, political and economic identity. The city is an intelligent living organism that needs to be understood in its amazing complexity,” says Professor Guillermo Vásquez de Velasco, dean of DePaul’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The cluster fosters multidisciplinary collaboration among faculty across academic lines, providing students the rich, complex course offerings that will prepare them for future success. “It is important to think about our urban space as a microcosm of a much larger global society.

“I hope to use my urban studies education to promote positive change in Chicago and other cities around the world.”

–Matt D’Onofrio

What the global urban landscape is requiring right now is a level of collaboration and of interdisciplinarity and creativity to be able to solve emerging problems,” says Professor Jacqueline Lazú, LAS associate dean and an associate professor of Modern Languages.

The new cluster reinforces DePaul’s commitment to its Vincentian values and urban education while remaining current. “A big strength of our curriculum and of the College of Liberal
Arts and Social Sciences as a whole is that we have a lot of people who actually study cities and what it’s like to live in them,” says Euan Hague, a professor of geography and director of the School of Public Service. “We have faculty that are globally connected, that are studying cities all over the world, that are taking students on study abroad trips to cities all over the world,” adds Hague. “Bringing those people together into this multidisciplinary cluster is hopefully going to increase recognition of urban studies beyond just a physical location.”

Sarah Vassileff, a senior majoring in criminology and minoring in American politics, has benefited from the new urban studies cluster. “Originally, I wanted to be a defense attorney, but in the end I decided I wanted to study how criminals’ minds work. My goal is to work for the counterterrorism unit in the FBI,” she says.

Vassileff will enter the field already a professional, having held internships locally for the Council on American-Islamic Relations and as a law clerk for the Child Protection Division of the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office. After graduation, she plans to attend the Chicago School of Professional Psychology to become a licensed forensic psychologist.

“I love the way DePaul has blended all these disciplines together and how the professors are connected to each other so that everything we learn correlates and ties together,” she says.

D’Onofrio has also taken advantage of DePaul’s extensive network in Chicago. In addition to interning for Alderman Michele Smith of the 43rd Ward and for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), D’Onofrio has found that what began as an internship for a Chicago management consulting firm has turned into a job.

“My urban studies experience at DePaul has been key in terms of helping me develop an analytical framework to view the city and the phenomena that occur within the city. I hope to use my urban studies education to promote positive change in Chicago and other cities around the world,” he says.

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Chicago Gun Violence Research Collaborative

*Fighting the scourge of gun violence through collaborative research*

Over 30,000 Chicagoans were shot or killed from gun violence between 2010 and 2018, according to Noam Ostrander, associate professor in the Department of Social Work at DePaul, who is chair of the Chicago Gun Violence Research Collaborative (CGVRC).

Calling the epidemic a “modern-day version of the plague,” Sinai Health System President Karen C. Teitelbaum in 2016 invited DePaul and other community activists to launch this collaborative to alter this grim trajectory. Convened by DePaul, Sinai Health System and the Illinois Public Health Institute, the CGVRC has brought together dozens of the city’s higher education and health care institutions to address the issue from multiple platforms. The CGVRC will be hosted by DePaul from 2018 to 2021.

The CGVRC leverages community-informed research to understand and change this “plague.” Faculty and graduate student fellows conduct critical research based on community “listening sessions” and share it with local leaders, scholars and community workers. Moving forward, the collaborative will expand its efforts as part of the Chicago HEAL Initiative, championed by Senator Richard J. Durbin, to collect and analyze gun violence data from leading hospitals around Chicago.

DePaul’s Urban Studies cluster is in a key position to bring the power of criminology, social work, public health and geography to bear on this complex issue. “The really exciting part of this urban cluster is that we can blend expertise from all of these fantastic disciplines to enable us to really give back to the city that hosts our institution in a positive way,” says Ostrander.
Early one fall morning, a group of DePaul students from Associate Professor Chris Tirres’s Latino Religious Experience in the United States (Religion 113) class went on an unusual field trip. After participating in an interfaith prayer vigil for detained immigrants and their families at the Immigration Detention Center in Broadview, Ill., they spent time at a house of hospitality run by the Interfaith Committee for Detained Immigrants. There they met people from around the globe stuck in limbo: released from detention but awaiting work, they had nowhere else to go.

Soon after, students had the chance to sit through an immigration court hearing.

“This is a very deep learning experience. It is embodied learning at its best,” says Tirres. The experiences Tirres offers his class form one of a variety of entry points for students to examine the thorny questions raised by immigration and migration, a growing concern as climate change and armed conflicts force more and more people to seek refuge in another land.

In response to this global crisis, DePaul launched its two-year Master of Science in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies. “Nobody in the United States gives a two-year master’s in forced migration studies,” says Associate Professor of History Rajit Mazumder, acting director of the program. “This is a quintessentially DePaul program, which prioritizes, contextualizes and trains people to help those who are among the most needy in the world right now.”

The first cohort launched in 2015, and over the years, the program has shown continued growth.

“I like to say that the success of our course will be that this program will no longer be necessary, but I don’t see that happening,” says Mazumder. “Our students, many of whom are trained practitioners in the field, feel empowered by doing things like humanitarian law and human rights law, and they get very enthused and energized by their internships because these are motivated young people who want to make a change.”
Emily Fleitz is exactly this kind of enthusiastic, motivated student. After studying international relations at American University in Washington, D.C., followed by a stint in Malaysia teaching English on a Fulbright scholarship, she returned to her hometown of Dayton, Ohio, where she worked for a local refugee resettlement organization. “I loved it,” she says about her work helping refugees acculturate and find housing.

When Fleitz decided to pursue higher education, she came across DePaul’s Refugee and Forced Migration Studies program.

“I knew I wanted to work with refugees, and with so many resettlement organizations in Chicago, I knew I couldn’t find this level of services in another city,” she says. She joined the third cohort and will graduate in the spring.

“I am so glad I chose this program,” she says. “My cohort is full of amazing people with a range of experiences working with refugees and a lot of international experience. I have a passion for working with people from other countries, and I truly believe our country is better because refugees are here. This experience will make me better at whatever job I do.”

Tirres, who has been teaching Religion 113 for more than a decade, savors the recent incorporation of what he calls an “immersion experience” into the class.

“There is something powerful about being present in the moment, whether it’s standing through a prayer vigil or sitting for an hour and a half in court and realizing how little power these people have in their own futures. That’s part of the gift of being in a big city like Chicago and being at a place like DePaul,” he says.

“My hope is that through these immersion experiences my students double down on their commitment to be a force for positive change in the world,” he says.

Behind the Headlines: DePaul Offers New Service Learning Trip to Berlin

In December, 11 DePaul students spent two weeks in Berlin through a new service-learning opportunity that enabled them to learn firsthand about immigration and refugee history and policy.

“This is a special program that gives students a way to use German in a service-learning context and apply it toward service-learning abroad,” says Associate Professor of German Anna Souchuk.

The genesis for the idea came in 2016 at a German Studies Association conference when a professor from East Carolina University shared a similar initiative.

Souchuk immediately presented the idea to Associate Professor of History Julia Woesthoff, who also chairs the LAS Study Abroad Committee, and together they developed a study abroad program focusing on Germany’s history of immigration.

They chose Berlin as the program’s location because it took in many of the 1 million refugees that arrived in Germany in 2015.

This inaugural service-learning trip included refugee-led cooking classes and tours, a visit to a language cafe and a chance to learn about several Caritas International aid projects.

“Our students have read and talked a lot about the refugee crisis, but what does that even mean? What does that even look like? How are these organizations functioning on the ground? This service-learning trip gives students a chance to give shape to something that is otherwise just a headline,” says Souchuk.

The next trip will be in summer 2020. Students from all of DePaul’s colleges are welcome to apply.
On May 14, 1969, a group of young men and women—children of first-generation Puerto Rican immigrants to Chicago—took over an administration building of McCormick Theological Seminary.

Demanding that nearby institutions, including DePaul, invest in low-income housing as so-called urban renewal began displacing families in Lincoln Park, they officially introduced the human and civil rights group known as the Young Lords Organization.

“They occupied that building to send a message that these institutions really needed to be accountable for the future of these families and of this community that was being displaced,” says Jacqueline Lazú, an associate professor of Modern Languages and associate dean of LAS.
This past September, DePaul marked the 50th anniversary of the Young Lords with three days of panel discussions, cultural programs and walking tours.

“It was a dream of mine to arrange this,” says Lazú, who has written a play and a forthcoming book on the Young Lords. “I knew that the 50th anniversary of the organization was upon us, and I wanted to make sure that we were able to honor the work that the Young Lords has done in Puerto Rican communities and the role that DePaul played.”

Highlights of the symposium included a historic dialogue between Young Lords founder Jose “Cha Cha” Jimenez and Oscar Lopez Rivera, a former political prisoner and leader of FALN, a Puerto Rican independence group.

“I can’t really overemphasize the historical importance of this dialogue, as these two figures have never come together in a public forum before,” says Lazú, who moderated the discussion.

Inspired by black self-empowerment groups like the Black Panthers, the Young Lords emerged during the counterculture revolution of the 1960s. Originally a street gang, the Young Lords were the first to give voice to the needs of the nearly 80,000 Puerto Ricans living in Chicago, the majority in Lincoln Park.

“Back when the Young Lords were organizing in the 1960s and the early 1970s, Lincoln Park was a very different type of community made up primarily of immigrants,” says Lazú. “The Young Lords were concerned about the impact that urban renewal efforts would have on the community and the neighborhood—justifiably so. The community changed dramatically, and those communities that were already underserved, which were primarily poor people of color, were in fact displaced from not just Lincoln Park, but other lakeside neighborhoods in Chicago.”

Among the Young Lords’ contributions were the creation of a free dental clinic and the establishment of a daycare center. They also were part of a multiracial activist group founded in Chicago by Black Panther leader Fred Hampton called the Rainbow Coalition.

A distinctly Chicago group, the Young Lords soon grew into a grassroots movement with active branches in New York and across the East Coast.

“The Young Lords went on to become a really important entryway for many generations of young people coming into political consciousness. And even though it was a very short-lived movement, to this day, for U.S. Puerto Ricans, the Young Lords are a symbol. They’re the place that we have in civil rights history,” says Lazú.

Library Archives

History Preserved

The story of the Young Lords lives on in DePaul’s Special Collections and Archives. A small, but powerfully evocative collection of historic photographs, newspaper articles, oral histories, artifacts and ephemera was donated in the 1990s by original members of the Young Lords to the Richardson Library in partnership with DePaul’s Center for Latino Research.

“The Young Lords organization was founded in Lincoln Park. Their story is important for understanding the neighborhood and DePaul’s history. We’re honored to be part of preserving and providing access to a glimpse of this often-overlooked history,” says Derek Potts, archives processing assistant for the Special Collections and Archives in Lincoln Park.

Photographs taken by Young Lords member Carlos Flores, who served as an unofficial photographer for the organization, are included in the collection.

“Lincoln Park in the 1960s and 1970s was significantly different than it is now. If you didn’t have photographers like Carlos Flores taking photographs, it would be very easy to walk around the neighborhood today and not know that they were here,” adds Potts.

Newspapers covering the events as they unfolded are also integral to tracing the story.

“Student newspapers were following these movements,” explains Jacqueline Lazú, associate professor of Modern Languages. “They were reporting in ways that not even mainstream newspapers were willing to. That’s why it’s so important to go back and look at the DePaulia and the Alethia that are part of this collection to really understand from the perspective of the students the role that the university actually was playing.”

The archives uncover something else: narratives that might have been lost in time.

“There was a lot of solidarity between students and faculty,” says Lazú.
APPLIED DIPLOMACY

The college has designed new BA and MA programs in applied diplomacy in response to a changing world and the broadening definition of diplomacy. This innovative curriculum is a collaborative effort by faculty from more than 20 of the college’s departments and programs. It is organized around the concept of transprofessional diplomacy, “which recognizes and builds upon the reality that diplomacy is practiced by more than official representatives of nation-states or nongovernmental organizations,” says Associate Dean Warren Schultz, who directs the project with Associate Professor of Religious Studies David Wellman.

NEW WAYS TO DISCOVER ‘THE URBAN’

Thanks to DePaul’s Chicago Quarter, first-year students are immersed in the city in a variety of unprecedented ways. Whether exploring Chicago’s urban agriculture or the politics of garbage, LAS faculty offer students a host of innovative and multidisciplinary options for learning about all things urban without ever leaving the Second City. And if students have the itch to travel the globe, they can also delve into a myriad of urban issues through a new assortment of First Year Abroad programs—from probing China’s environmental challenges in Beijing and uncovering the history of the holy city in Jerusalem to learning about religious diversity in modern Paris.

CRIMINALIZING BLACK CHILDREN

Chicago’s juvenile justice reform movement at the end of the 19th century morphed into a system that continues to portray African-American children as dangerous budding criminals, explained Tera Agyepong, an assistant professor of history, in the fall faculty forum sponsored by the DePaul Women’s Network. The juvenile justice system became the primary way to care for needy or abandoned African-American children who were rejected by the whites-only public institutions that would normally care for “wards of the state.” Such children thus ended up marked as “criminals” rather than as innocent children in need of the state’s help. The resulting disproportionate numbers of African-American children in the reform and criminal systems fueled racist stereotypes that persist today. Agyepong’s research forms the basis of her book “The Criminalization of Black Children: Race, Gender, and Delinquency in Chicago’s Juvenile Justice System, 1899-1945.”

OUTSTANDING GIS STUDENTS

Department of Geography alumni Sarah Arnold (Geography, Philosophy ’18) and Brian Li (Geography ’18) received the 2018 Illinois Geographic Information Systems Association (ILGISA) Outstanding Student Award. ILGISA is the only statewide organization of GIS/geospatial professionals in Illinois. As an undergraduate, Sarah Arnold shared her GIS skills with community housing rights and advocacy organizations. She also worked as an assistant to the Cook County zoning administrator. In addition to receiving this outstanding student award, Sarah was nationally recognized with a prestigious National Science Foundation undergraduate summer research fellowship at the Center for Geographic Analysis at Harvard University.

Brian Li completed more GIS classes at DePaul than any other student. Among many other projects, he has explored CTA transit quality based on accessibility and transfer connectivity in relation to disadvantaged populations. He even created his own transit quality index for each CTA ‘L’ station and bus stop based on ADA accessibility. These techniques, integrated into the weighted buffer analysis he had devised previously, led Brian to generate a spatial interpolation map using the inverse distance weighting method to visually display and estimate the transit quality across Chicago as a continuous surface.

TIKTAN MONKS OF DREPUNG GOMANG MONASTERY

DePaul’s Center for Religion, Culture and Community welcomed a group of Buddhist monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery from Mundgod, India. The Oct. 29-Nov. 1 visit included a hands-on presentation in which the monks practiced the delicate process of creating a traditional sand mandala, an ancient practice within Tibetan Buddhism. This culminated with a closing ceremony in which the mandalas were destroyed. “After painstakingly creating the mandala, the monks destroyed it, which was perhaps the most symbolic ritual aspect of the week,” says Associate Professor of Religious Studies Chris Tirres. “The monks invite us to appreciate the beauty that is in front of us and to be open to change.”
BALANCING THE SCALES OF COMMUNITY HEALTH TO REPAIR INEQUITY
DEPAUL’S CENTER FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY LINKS LOW BIRTH WEIGHT WITH SEGREGATION

According to the World Health Organization, babies born weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces are designated low birth weight. This measure is considered a sensitive indicator of population health. While mothers are often blamed for low birth weight, new research by DePaul indicates a far more universal culprit: racism.

“The health inequities that we see are not the product of poor individual decision making. They reflect much larger public issues, and they are our clearest indicator of social justice inequities,” says Fernando De Maio, associate professor of sociology at DePaul and co-director of the Center for Community Health Equity. The center’s studies linking low birth weight with minority and ethnic segregation have received national attention.

The center, established in 2015 by DePaul and Rush University Medical Center, brings health professionals together with sociologists, geographers and other social scientists to investigate seemingly isolated health conditions that are, in fact, united under structural violence.

“These are social and political arrangements that harm populations,” says De Maio. “The violence manifests in poor health outcomes, whether it be low birth weight or mental illness or adult-onset diabetes or other contributors to premature mortality.”

The initial 2017 birth weight study looked at communities in Chicago and Toronto. The following year, three cities were added: Baltimore, Boston and Philadelphia.

“The health inequities that we see are not the product of poor individual decision making, they reflect much larger public issues, and they are our clearest indicator of social justice inequities.”

–Fernando De Maio

Instead of comparing average rates across cities, De Maio and his colleagues focused on differences between communities—a rarity in social epidemiology, according to De Maio.

What they found is that babies in Toronto fared significantly better than in Chicago across the board, with no association between a community’s racial/ethnic composition and low birth weight prevalence. By contrast, across Chicago’s communities, low birth weight prevalence varies from 3 percent to almost 20 percent, with higher rates found in predominantly African-American communities.

De Maio speculates that the reasons for these disparities have to do with the health care and welfare systems in Toronto versus Chicago, as well as the “different exposure to racism and discrimination in U.S. society that harms the health of women and, in this case, shows up in low birth weight.”

His findings are nothing new for Chicago. “There has been no change in the overall prevalence of low birth weight in Chicago since 1980,” says De Maio.

It’s a sobering thought and one that De Maio probed extensively in the newly released book he co-edited, “Community Health Equity: A Chicago Reader” (University of Chicago Press), which examines racism, discrimination and health equity in Chicago over the past century.

Despite decades of entrenched inequity, however, De Maio is far from discouraged. “Through the kinds of collaborations that we’re doing at the Center for Community Health Equity, we are not only able to observe these patterns, but hopefully to advocate for changes,” he says.

COVER ART: 1960S EBONY & JET
DePaul’s Black Cultural Center gave the community a “time machine” back to the 1960s with an exhibit of Ebony and Jet magazine covers showcasing the pressing social topics facing African-Americans. “These magazines were iconic,” says Associate Professor of Political Science Christina Rivers. “Through these headlines, this exhibit showcases to DePaul students what was trending for African-Americans. The focus of Ebony and Jet was normalcy and the belongingness, accomplishments and achievements of black life.”

This exhibit is one way the Black Cultural Center is providing a wide range of events around issues related to the African diaspora. “The center is going beyond just the standard lecture by seeking to present this information in ways that are more collaborative and more interactive across a broader variety of formats, from visual exhibits to dance and musical performances,” says Rivers.

ART INSTITUTE NIGHT
On September 27, more than 85 DePaul students, faculty and friends gathered at the Art Institute of Chicago for a DePaul-sponsored night of art, jazz and conversation. Faculty from disciplines as wide-ranging as art and architecture, law, political science, and Asian studies offered gallery talks on “reading” Chinese painting, Chicago Black Arts Movement photographers, Bronze Age Cycladic figurines, and the legal considerations surrounding the acquisition and display of ancient objects. Thanks to museum staff, DePaul students also enjoyed a special “behind-the-scenes” tour of the photo conservation lab.

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COMMUNITY HEALTH EQUITY: A CHICAGO READER
This collection of articles and documents showcases the effect of a century of structural socioeconomic inequalities on patients and medical facilities alike. This book is co-edited by Fernando De Maio, associate professor of sociology at DePaul and co-director of the Center for Community Health Equity. (University of Chicago Press Books)

HÖLDERLIN’S HYMN “REMEMBRANCE
A new translation of philosopher Martin Heidegger’s 1941–1942 lecture course on Friedrich Hölderlin’s hymn, “Remembrance,” which lays out a detailed plan for the interpretation of Hölderlin’s poetry in which remembrance is a central concern. Translators are William McNeill, professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy at DePaul, and Julia Ireland, associate professor of philosophy at Whitman College and a DePaul alumnus (Philosophy MA ’94, PhD ’07). (Indiana University Press)

FRAGILE WORLD ECOLOGY AND THE CHURCH
In this book, scholars and activists from Christian communities as far-flung as Honduras, the Philippines, Colombia and Kenya present a global angle on the global ecological crisis and offer Catholic resources for responding to it. Edited by William T. Cavanaugh, Professor of Catholic Studies and Director of the Center for World Catholicism and Intercultural Theology at DePaul, this volume explores the deep interconnections between the global North and the global South, and probes into the “integral ecology” described by Pope Francis in Laudato Si’. (Cascade Press)

TUNED MASS
This solo exhibition by Professor of Art, Media and Design Jeff Carter was on display September 8, 2018–January 6, 2019 at the Chicago Cultural Center. Working from images of specific conflict zones sourced online, he developed a series of sculptures that explore the “architecture of the barricade.” Carter’s interpretations rely on forms that express aggressive dynamics and raw utility, yet are carefully integrated and intentionally crafted. (Image title: Occupier_1.)

AESTHETIC REASON AND IMAGINATIVE FREEDOM: FRIEDRICH SCHILLER AND PHILOSOPHY
Essays on the philosophical thinking of Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805), who is better known as a political playwright. Editors María del Rosario Acosta López, associate professor of philosophy at DePaul, and Jeffrey L. Powell, professor of philosophy at Marshall University, present Schiller as a robust philosopher and a guide to contemporary philosophical concerns and approaches, such as phenomenology, hermeneutics and aesthetics. (SUNY Press)

A PLACE TO CALL HOME: WOMEN AS AGENTS OF CHANGE IN MUMBAI
In this ethnographic field study, Ramya Ramanath, associate professor of Refugee and Forced Migration Studies and chair of international public service in the School of Public Service at DePaul, examines the lives of women displaced by slum clearance and relocated to the largest slum resettlement site in Asia. (Routledge)

PREPARING FOR WINTER IN CONVERSATION WITH GEORGE ORWELL’S ANIMAL FARM
A solo exhibition at the Jean Albano Gallery Chicago by Mary Ann Papanek-Miller, professor and chair of the Department of Art, Media and Design, was influenced by the collapse of a private zoo in Ohio and the apparent escape of a monkey, which led her to revisit the quote from Orwell’s “Animal Farm”: “all animals are equal, but some more than others.” The result is a series of artworks in which she came to realize that ultimately, we all (species) “prepare for winter.” (Image Title: Preparing for Winter.)

WE HAVE OVERCOME: AN IMMIGRANT’S LETTER TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Over 50 years since the Civil Rights Act enshrined equality under the law for all Americans, DePaul Professor and Director of Teaching Practicum Jason D. Hill corrects the narrative in this powerfully eloquent book. Born in Jamaica, Hill found his adopted country of America to be a land of bountiful opportunity. Instead of a racist establishment seeking to keep him down, his opposition came from so-called liberals of all races. Part memoir, part exhortation to his fellow Americans, and, above all, a paean to the American dream. (Bombardier Books)
When Channing Tabb (Spanish '10), a graduate student in Writing, Rhetoric and Discourse at DePaul, interned as a grant writer at Curt’s Café in Evanston, she not only learned marketable skills, but she also helped bring in funds for a café that employs at-risk young adults. And she received credit toward her degree.

“For me this internship was valuable because I got to have some real-world work experience in something and see if I liked it while also helping others,” she says.

Channing was one of eight DePaul students who piloted the Community- and Project-Based Learning (CPBL) Internship Scholarship, a new LAS program established last spring. The 10-week scholarship supports students who take an internship with a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization or government entity, with whom they work on a project that calls upon their academic skills and talents. It is open to students with majors or minors in LAS.

“We know that internships are highly correlated with later career success,” says Margaret Storey, associate dean and professor of history. “We also know many of our students work to put themselves through school and are unable to afford to take unpaid internships. CPBL scholarships make that choice easier for students and give them the opportunity to invest their time and energy in an experiential learning opportunity.”

As part of the internship, students are required to work with a faculty advisor and a professional supervisor on a project of benefit to the organization or the community the organization serves.

“We want students to learn about the power of their education in the humanities, fine arts and social sciences to impact the world,” says Storey. “At the same time, we also want them to leave those internships with a project that showcases their talents and experiences in the world of work.”

For her final project, senior Rasa Whittaker, whose concentration is in sustainability and geotechnology, created a digital interactive map via a geographic information system (GIS) for the Community Activism Law Alliance, an organization in Chicago working to bring free legal services to underserved communities. “I had taken GIS classes at DePaul, and it was nice to make my GIS work help someone directly,” she says.

Now that Channing has completed this internship, she is considering grantwriting as a career. “I learned that I actually like proposal writing, so that’s something I want to do once I’m done with the program,” she says.

The two-year pilot was such a success that LAS has been able to secure additional funding for the scholarships from the Julian Grace Foundation, according to Storey. They plan to award approximately ten scholarship per quarter between 2018-2020.

LAS has also launched a linked program for faculty development: CPBL Co-teaching Fellowships. To be part of the program, LAS faculty apply for either a team-teaching or lead faculty CPBL Fellowship, both of which are designed to support the development and delivery of co-taught multi-disciplinary courses in which our students work collaboratively with a community partner on a project of mutual interest and benefit.

The first courses funded by the program launched in the spring quarter of 2019.
Soon after graduating from college, Dana Yanocha (MA Sustainable Urban Development ’17) was able to put her degree into practice.

“I got really interested in the idea that the city level is where real gains on issues around the environment and climate are happening. That pushed me into thinking about going back to grad school to better understand how cities work,” says the Pennsylvania native and Penn State graduate.

She quickly settled on the Sustainable Urban Development MA Program at DePaul.

“I was really looking for a nontraditional urban planning program,” she says. “What drew me to DePaul’s program is its integration of sustainability and the way it looks at these issues through more of a social lens than the more traditional planning and design approach.”

Along with Professor Joseph Schwieterman in the School for Public Service, which houses the Sustainable Urban Development program, she researched policy on metropolitan and transportation issues for the Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development.

“This was a really transformative experience for me because it propelled me into my interest in transportation planning and how the ways that people get around really shapes cities and dictates how functional and livable they are,” she says.

These days Yanocha is the senior research associate at the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy in Washington, D.C. This position enables her to research sustainable transportation from a variety of angles, including how companies like Uber and Lyft are affecting mobility in cities and how something like the new dockless bike shares fit into our shared economy.

“How are these new tech-enabled mobility modes impacting cities? Can they actually shift people out of cars? What sort of benefits could that generate in the long term?” asks Yanocha.

She credits DePaul with launching her on this meaningful career path.

“I definitely don’t think I would have gotten this job if it hadn’t been for the work that I did through the Chaddick Institute,” she says.

Looking forward, Yanocha hopes to leave her mark in the sustainable transportation field. “I’m hoping to continue to focus on these more innovative, tech-enabled transportation options,” she says.

But what she’s come to realize is that issues of transportation are inextricably linked to social justice. “The world that we live in is extremely inequitable,” she says. “I think the ultimate goal of sustainability is to ensure that everyone is benefiting from a world that’s free of pollution and harmful weather events. The gains that can be made using some of these innovative new offerings are only going to go as far as who is actually able to access and use them.”
My dream job is to work in the European Union or the United Nations or to represent the Polish people on the international stage,” says 21-year-old Izabela Kantor. Growing up in Addison, Ill., she was raised in a Polish-speaking home.

“Both of my parents were born in Poland, so I was immersed in Polish language and culture from the very beginning,” says Kantor, who also attended Polish school throughout her childhood, where she learned about Polish language, history and literature.

When the time came for her to look at colleges, DePaul stood out for its international studies program and its close proximity to home. Being chosen to receive the Arthur J. Schmitt Fellowship as an incoming freshman added a valuable financial incentive. She later was awarded the DePaul Presidential Grant Scholarship.

“Neither of my parents attended college, and we didn’t understand the costs involved. To be honest, I would not be able to attend college without these scholarships,” she says.

A highlight of her time at DePaul was her service project through the Schmitt Fellowship at a Ronald McDonald House. These houses, located near various hospitals, provide meals and housing for families with hospitalized children.

“This was such an amazing experience. These kids are in such pain, and just being able to bring them happiness and let them forget about everything they’re going through, even for a little bit, is a great feeling,” she says.

Kantor was also one of only three young people across the country chosen to be awarded the American Institute of Polish Culture’s Harriet Irsay Scholarship, which she received for her extensive volunteer work in the Polish community. This scholarship enabled her to spend her junior year in Brussels, where she interned in the European Union Parliament.

At DePaul, in addition to serving as secretary of the DePaul Polish Student Alliance, she is a Polish translator for the DePaul Translator and Interpreter Corps, based in the Department of Modern Languages, where she helps new immigrants overcome language barriers through her translation of important documents.

“My dream job is to work in the European Union or the United Nations or to represent the Polish people on the international stage.”

–Izabela Kantor

Despite juggling a host of volunteer activities with a full academic load, Kantor continues to excel in her studies. This past November, she was invited to present a paper at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s EU Studies Conference, thanks to encouragement from Political Science Instructor Catherine May. “I am the only undergraduate on the panel selected to present my research. It’s such a great opportunity,” says Kantor. “DePaul has helped me achieve so much.”
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